METRO / A25

Lim sets hero's welcome for Pacquiao but won't condone his P120,000 debt

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PAL: One of biggest turnaround stories of firms hit hard by '97 Asian crisis

LIFESTYLE/ C1

Dream diaries: Write 2bu! about your own dreams; they might just come true

ENTERTAINMENT / F4

Rushes: Martin says it's been 9 years but Pops still unhappy about something

'Inday' jokes in English, smarter than 'Eraptions'

EDUKADA ANG MGA YAN!

By Jerome Aning

INDAY, THE HOUSEmaid or "*kasambahay*," is riding the airwaves.

Whether in e-mail, blog posts, Internet chats or text messages,

INDAY/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 10, 2007 ★★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 304 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

SC rules: No total ban on milk formula ads

By Leila B. Salaverria

MULTIBILLION-PESO ADVERTISEMENTS of breast milk substitutes for infants and toddlers cannot be completely banned as part of the Department of Health's efforts to promote breastfeeding, the Supreme Court ruled in a 12-0 decision released yesterday.

The ban on infant formula, which is

SC RULES/ A22

Briber exec of GMA party

P2-M bribe try linked to President, Speaker's bid for survival

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

A MALACAÑANG ALLY WAS LINKED YESTERDAY TO ALLEGED BRIBERY attempts to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo from being impeached, as her relationship with Speaker Jose de Venecia sank to the level of what a lawmaker called "mutually assured destruction."

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran identified lawyer Francis Ver, a ranking official of Ms Arroyo's political party Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino), as the person who allegedly offered him P2 million to get him to sign a "sham" impeachment complaint against the President.

In a privilege speech, Beltran claimed that Ver on Friday twice offered him cash to endorse the complaint. He said Ver made the offer to him right in the session hall.

Trying to patch apparent cracks within the Lakas coalition, Ms Arroyo met De Venecia and key supporters over lunch at Malacañang Palace soon after Beltran's speech. *(See story below.)*

Opposition lawmakers contend the impeachment case—filed by lawyer Roel Pulido—was a weak one bound to be thrown out in the House of Representatives.

House rules bar the filing of a second impeachment case against an official within one year, thus shielding Ms Arroyo from a more serious impeachment case that may be lodged against her in connection with the scandal-ridden National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Ver, deputy secretary general of Kampi, denied he ever offered money to Beltran.

Malacañang branded as "unsubstantiated" allegations that one of its allies was involved in attempts to bribe lawmakers, and said Ms Arroyo would not be distracted from her job of running the nation. *(See related story on Page A23).*

To support Beltran's allegation,

BRIBER/ A23

FULL DISCLOSURE: In a privilege speech, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran recounts where, when, how and who offered him a bribe in exchange for his signature on the impeach complaint vs President Arroyo filed by lawyer Roel Pulido late Friday.
JOAN BONDOC

'Lobbyist' monitors for Kampi

By Norman Bordadora

ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY aside, lawyer Francis Ver appears to be a likeable fellow in the halls of the agenda-driven House of Representatives.

Even his accusers think so.

"We are not the best of friends, but we went through something together," Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said when he was interpellated following his privilege speech yesterday.

Beltran told the House how Ver helped him prepare documents that backed his protest against Japan Airlines after JAL allegedly discriminated against Filipino passengers in 2006.

"The airline had hotel accommodations for other passengers

LOBBYIST/ A23

GMA, JDV: Our coalition won't break

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday steered away from a collision course and agreed they would not allow the ruling coalition to break up.

The two top leaders of the Lakas coalition and about 25 pro-administration members of the House of Representatives met over an unscheduled lunch at Malacañang.

"Loud and clear. Without it being said, it was made clear nobody would be ousted," said Majority Leader Arthur Defensor of the lunch.

He said it was the decision of all those present, particularly the President and the Speaker, "that there's no way we can

GMA, JDV/ A8

JOAN BONDOC

DONE: Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros holds the graft complaint vs Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Palace won't give Senate Neda records on NBN

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS SLAMMED THE DOOR anew on the Senate which is demanding to look into records of meetings of the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordinating Council (Neda-ICC) that led to the approval of the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

"The discussions in closed-door Cabinet and Neda meetings are considered executive privilege and necessarily, the minutes of said closed-door meetings are also covered by executive privilege," Neda Director General Augusto B. Santos said in an Oct. 3 letter to the committee on accountability of public officers and investigation.

Because the NBN project has not yet been finalized, "it is therefore premature to release

PALACE/ A22

COA finds P329-M textbooks unused

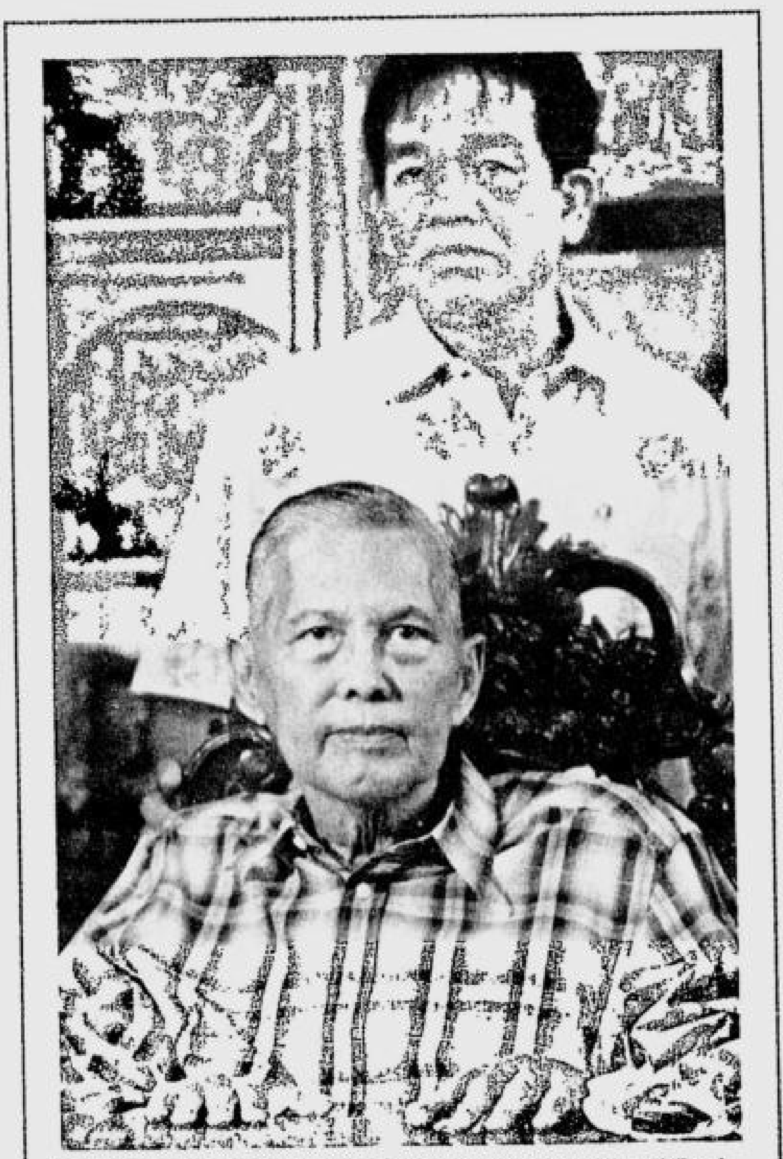
By Jocelyn R. Uy

SOME P329 MILLION WORTH of textbooks, information and communication technology (ICT) products, computers and instructional materials are lying around in the offices of school officials or in stockrooms, destroyed by molds, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

In its 2006 audit report on the Department of Education, the COA disclosed that 2.5 million copies of textbooks or instructional materials costing around P186.96 million have remained undistributed for reasons ranging from oversupply, deficiency in contents to scarcity of funds, and vehicles for delivery.

"Our inspection of storerooms located in selected schools or division offices in 15 regions disclosed that there were textbooks that were undis-

COA FINDS/ A8



DEFENDER OF THE FAITH: Justice Secretary (on leave) Raul Gonzalez makes his first public appearance (with driver/organ donor Felicito Gunay) since his kidney transplant and proves his tongue is as sharp as ever when lashing out at the critics of President Arroyo. *(Story on Page A2.)*
EDWIN BACASMAS

Family, not sex, is Pinoys' No. 1 source of happiness

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

FAMILY, HEALTH AND RELIGION ARE the three most important sources of happiness among Filipinos, while sex, sports, politics and cultural pursuits rank among the least important, according to a recent study by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

But sounding incredulous, the NSCB official, who released the results of the study yesterday, observed: "Could it be that the respondents were just too shy to reveal their true feelings about sex? Or (is it) time to shift stories away from the birds and the bees?"

Romulo Virola, NSCB secretary general, reported that Filipinos ranked family as the most important source of happiness, with a score of 9.45 on a scale of 10. Health came next with 8.95, while religion ranked third with 8.59.

Other important sources of happi-

FAMILY/A10

Happiness Index

Source	Average importance	Rank
Family	9.45	1
Health	8.95	2
Religion and/or spiritual work	8.59	3
Friends	8.57	4
Income and financial security	8.30	5
Education	8.25	6
Love life	8.20	7
Work	7.94	8
Environment	7.88	9
Economy	7.84	10
Technological know-how	7.17	11
Leisure and sports	6.98	12
Government	6.53	13
Sex life	6.39	14
Community and volunteer work	6.24	15
Cultural activities	5.88	16
Politics	5.84	17

"Nonrandom sample: National Convention on Statistics participants, October 2007"

No. of respondents 167

Source: NSCB

Heartbreak can kill, study proves, sort of

LONDON—IT HAS BEEN THE STUFF OF GREAT romantic novels and blockbuster films, and doctors have long suspected it.

A study of 9,000 British civil servants has at last established it is possible to die of a broken heart from a bad marriage as well as other close relationships that have gone sour.

The study, reported in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine, found that stress and anxiety of hostile, angry relationships can boost the risk of developing heart disease.

The study showed that for people with the worst intimate relationships, chances of a heart attack or other heart trouble rose by 34 percent compared to people on good terms with their spouses, partners, relatives and friends.

What it likely boils down to is stress—a byproduct of troubled relationships and well-known contributor to health problems.

"A person's heart condition seems to be influenced by negative intimate relationships," the researchers wrote. "We showed that the

HEARTBREAK/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

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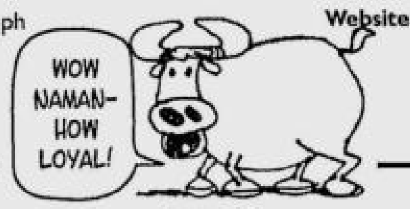
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Raul Gonzalez: I'm back

By Kristine L. Alave

HE MAY BE "WOBBLY" AND weak from his organ-transplant operation but, powered by a new kidney, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has proven that his mind and tongue are as sharp as ever, lashing out at critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Still recuperating from his health scare, a jolly Gonzalez had a brief chat with reporters yesterday in his Pasig City residence. He talked about his health and how he missed the work, particularly his job as one of the President's zealous defenders.

"Well, I'm back and I don't think my perception has changed. My loyalties remain," Gonzalez told reporters in his first public appearance since his operation last month.

He revealed that the President visited him before she left for the United States recently.

During their talk, Ms Arroyo told him there were many who lobbied to replace him as justice chief but she rejected them all. The President wanted him to stay, he said.

"I told the President when she visited me that she can rely on me and my son," the justice secretary said. Gonzalez's son, Raul Jr., is an Iloilo congressman.

No plans to retire

Gonzalez, 76, said he had no plans of retiring and would be back to work at the justice department by early December. But if he is needed tomorrow, he would go back to work—albeit in a wheelchair.

His family, he noted, would rather see him retire from government service and enjoy life free of politics.

"There are times when I feel it's better to rest but the President is an inspiration," Gonzalez said, adding that he fears inactivity.

He revealed that he did not want to have the same fate as his father, who died two years after his retirement.

"Maybe I'll slow down a bit but I don't know if I can do it," he said, chuckling.

CABINET HUDDLE
Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confers with Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera and NICA Director General Cesar Garcia before the start of yesterday's National Security Council-Cabinet Group meeting in Malacañang. LYN RILLON

CHEAPER MEDICINE BILL

Roxas accepts price controls

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF THE Senate's version of a bill that seeks to lower the price of medicines has dropped his objection to the version of the House of Representatives which proposes setting up of market controls.

"We in the Senate remain open to the ideas of the House, and we will enter bicameral talks with the end-goal of making the best bill for our people," said Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.

Roxas conceded that the sponsors of a similar bill in the House correctly anticipated that big drug companies could manipulate and prevent drugstores from selling imported cheaper medicines.

He said the use of price controls could come in if market competition from cheaper medicines from abroad and generic drugs do not work and make medicines affordable to the public.

"I'm very attracted to that idea (of a must carry provision) because these medicines may come in but if they're stacked in a warehouse, there won't be any change in prices," he said.

"So maybe that is something good and we will certainly be open to incorporating that, if in fact it is in the House version," he added.

After the Senate passes its version on third reading and if the House similarly passes its own version, a bicameral conference will be set to reconcile both versions.

The House of Representatives had failed to pass its version of the cheaper medicines law in the 13th Congress.

Last week, the Senate passed Senate Bill 1658 or the "Quality Affordable Medicines Act" on second reading without amendments.

Marines won't release report on debacles

By Nikko Dizon

WHY THE MARINES SUFFERED HEAVY CAsualties in Basilan may no longer be known.

Philippine Marines Commandant Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino has ruled out the release of the results of the inquiries into the July 10 and Aug. 18 Marine encounters, saying these are "military secrets."

"That's purely internal. Those are military secrets. It would be better if we don't make public these lapses which we are looking into because it is unbecoming of us to tell the whole country of our mistakes," Dolorfino told reporters Monday at the Naval Base at Sangley Point, Cavite when asked why the probe results would not be disseminated to the media.

Dolorfino said the investigations of the boards of inquiry, created last month, were still ongoing.

The inquiries will determine what went wrong in the encounters last July 10 and Aug. 18, that left a total of 29 Marines dead.

On July 10, 14 Marine soldiers were killed in an ambush by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Giganta in Al-Barka town. Ten of them were subsequently beheaded and mutilated allegedly by Abu Sayyaf extremists.

On Aug. 18, following the government's declaration of an all-out offensive against the terrorist group, 15 Marines, including five junior officers, were killed during an attack on an Abu Sayyaf camp.

"Our primary objective is to be able to learn from the experience. That's the most important," Dolorfino said. This will lead to the formulation of command policies that will "prevent the recurrence of similar incidents," he added.

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Defense Department to draft laws that would protect the disclosure of "military secrets."

The President's directive came while the Senate investigated the allegations of a former military intelligence agent that the military tapped her conversations with a top elections official about rigging the results of the May 2004 presidential elections.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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2 AGING PINAYS get Japanese nationality /A9

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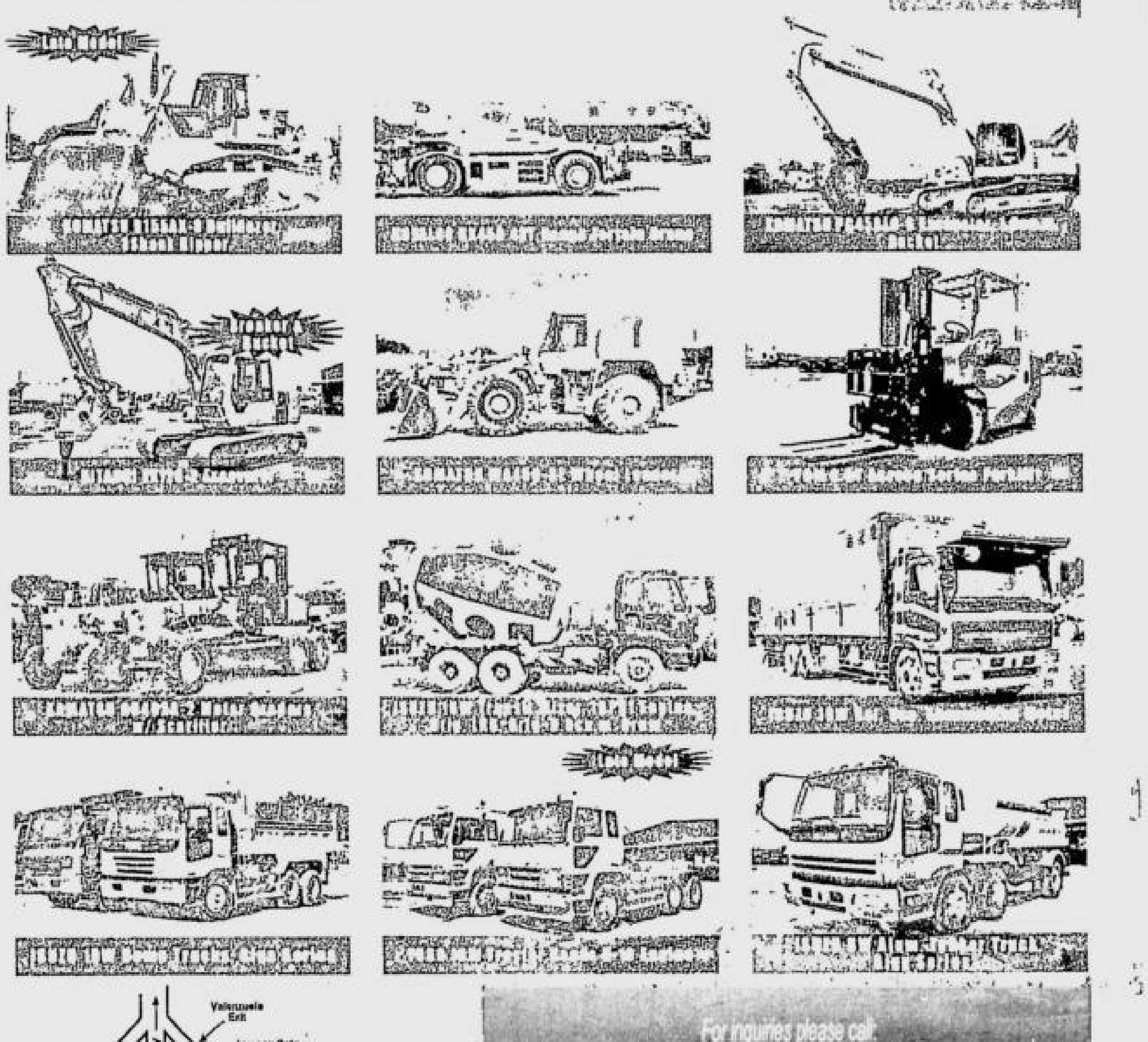

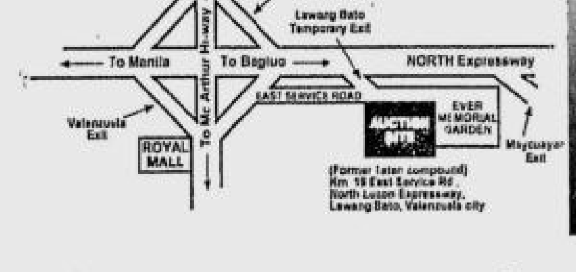

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PCGG chief probed on P10-M advances

THE CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMmission on Good Government, Camilo Sabio, is being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, over cash advances amounting to P10.35 million that he allegedly made from a dummy corporation set up by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The cash advances, which were allegedly made over a period of nine months in 2006, in the form of several checks issued by the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp., were not part of official PCGG transactions, documents from the PAGC said.

In an interview yesterday, Sabio said he was informed of the investigation and was ready to answer the charges.

The PCGG chair said the money was not for his personal use.

He said he was confident that his name would be cleared. "I can defend myself," he said.

Mid-Pasig Land is the registered owner of the 18.4-hectare "Payanig sa Pasig" lot on Ortigas Avenue allegedly owned by Marcos and was one of the properties sequestered by the PCGG after the 1986 people power revolution.

Surrendered by Campos

Mid-Pasig Land is a corporation under the Independent Realty Corp. (IRC), a group of companies that Chinese-Filipino businessman Jose Yao Campos, a crony of Marcos, surrendered to the government in a compromise agreement in 1986.

Mid-Pasig Land turns over rental income from the property to the PCGG.

Sabio is a director of Mid-Pasig Land, along with PCGG commissioners Ricardo Abcede and Tereso Javier.

According to the documents, Sabio was due to receive P50.35 million from Mid-Pasig Land representing P33.4 million in rental income on the Payanig property and P16.9 million proceeds from the sale of A. Soriano Corp. shares.

But official remittances to the PCGG made on Nov. 27, 2006, amounted only to P40 million while P10.35 million was disbursed directly to Sabio.

Questionable

Remittances to the PCGG normally goes to the National Treasury as by law all recovered ill-gotten assets are to go to finance the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Sabio's questionable transactions allegedly started on Feb. 14 and lasted through Oct. 3.

The amounts were reflected as cash advances by Sabio in his capacity as Mid-Pasig Land director, as follows: P5 million (Feb. 14); P1 million (March 8); P2 million (March 16); P5 million (April 21); and, P7 million (May 3).

The PAGC started its investigation late last year after Mid-Pasig Land made its official remittances to the PCGG.

In April 2007, the PAGC asked the IRC, Mid-Pasig Land's mother company, to submit the pertinent documents to it. *Kristine L. Alave*

Cops, again, say they'll go after cars with sirens

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) is cracking down on motorists who use sirens, blinkers, expired commemorative plates and colored covers for license plates.

Chief Superintendent Perfecto Palad, chief of the PNP's Traffic Management Group (TMG), told the INQUIRER that on Monday, his men will spread out into the streets of Metro Manila to flag down motorists using sirens, blinkers and vehicles with expired commemorative license plates and colored protectors for their license plates. The items will then be confiscated by the TMG.

He said he and his men will come out on Monday in full force to confiscate these items. "Let this serve as a warning to motorists to take out these items from their vehicles by then," Palad said.

Also on in their list are license plates with the words "Mayor" or "Councilor." Palad said these license plates are not authorized to be used by motorists. For plastic covers of license plates, Palad said any tint or color that obstructs the view of the license plates will also be confiscated.

Palad also enjoined the motoring public to report to the TMG motorists on the road using sirens, blinkers and the unauthorized plates through cellphone number 0928-3982873. "The public can report to us any motorists using these items and we will trace and go after these vehicles.

The TMG head also said that as of the present, only the following commemorative plates are allowed to be used by the Land Transportation Office (LTO): the 12th Asean Summit which expires on Oct. 30; the St. Scholastica Centennial Celebration which can be used up to Dec. 31, 2008; Luzon Motorcyclist Federation up to the end of October; the Kiwanis Club of St. John until April 10, 2008; the LTO's Founding Anniversary up to July 31, 2008; the Cannonization of St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus up to Dec. 3, 2008, and the PGH 100th Anniversary Foundation which can be used until the end of 2008.

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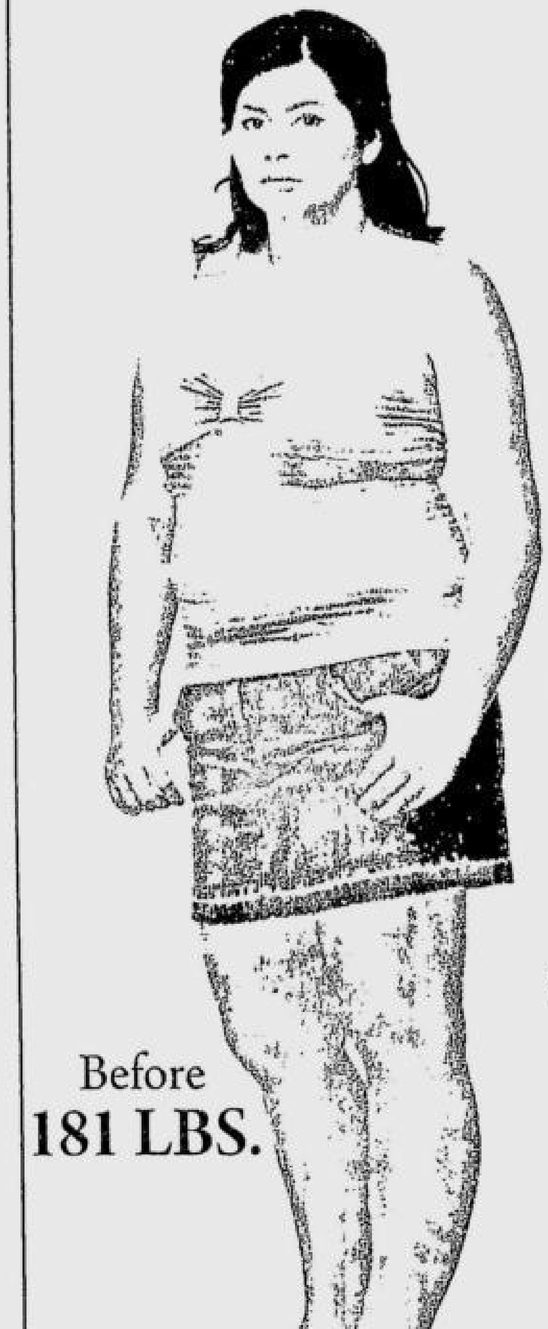

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'Inday' jokes ...

From page A1

she's smart, spouts flowery English (even a little Spanish)—and is keeping Filipinos here and abroad in stitches.

Inday's "adventures" in and out of household service are threatening to be as widespread as the "Erap" and "Gloria" jokes.

She has morphed from the old *promdi* (from the province) ignorant of city life and entangled in a dalliance with the man of the house.

The jokes started spreading last month (although some chatters put it at circa 2005).

A web search showed one early post made at www.podcentral.ph late in August. It was titled "The Chronicles of Wonder Yaya"—either a reference to the government's "Super-Maid" skills training program for domestic helpers, or an imitation of the superhero themes of prime-time *telenovelas*.

In one joke, the employer asks Inday why her son has a bump on his head.

Inday replies: "Compromising safety with useless aesthetics, the not-so-well-engineered architectural design of our kitchen lavatory affected the boy's cranium with a slight boil at the left temple near the auditory organ."

Asked in another instance why the food she has cooked is salty, Inday says: "The consistency was fine. But you see, it seems that the increased amount of sodium chloride (NaCl) affected the taste drastically, and those actions are irreversible. I do apologize."

Not funny

Both the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), a militant labor alliance, and the Visayas Forum Foundation (VFF), which is fighting the worldwide traffic in women, said there was nothing wrong with being amused by the jokes.

But the message behind the jokes is not funny and should make people pause and think, they said.

"These jokes are reflective of the long-standing low regard for our domestic workers," said VFF deputy executive director Rolando Pacis. "While humor is appreciated once in a while, we must realize that it can also be an insidious medium for normalizing certain negative stereotypes."

Pacis, however, said the VFF was angry because some mobile companies had been sending the jokes to their subscribers.

"Is it really unusual and amusing when domestic workers are [portrayed as] smart in the jokes? Is there a presupposition that they are ignorant? Are maids that inconsequential and incapable of any intelligent discussion?" he said.

Nenita "Ka Nitz" Gonzaga, KMU vice president for women's affairs, said she thought the jokes were funny "because Inday has the most complex replies and even scientific explanations to simple questions, indicating that she is an erudite person."

So what's wrong?

The Inday jokes have elicited negative remarks in Internet discussion groups.

In the gay forum guys4men.com, one poster said he also found nothing funny in the jokes.

"Are we amazed that there's a maid who speaks English?" he said. "Filipinos excel in jobs such as call center agents, domestic helpers, caregivers, nurses, etc. What's wrong if we all try our mighty best to do that English thing?"

Overqualified for job

But how did Inday acquire her smarts and her English-speaking skills?

According to Gonzaga, Inday must have been a teacher.

Most of the chatters and blog posters agreed that Inday read the dictionary and probably her ward's schoolbooks in her spare time.

In one joke, the poor employer tries to emulate Inday's example by also reading the dictionary to improve his diction and grammar. He is left cussing when Inday replies in Spanish.

Gonzaga said that while Inday's intelligence was "exaggerated," it was not impossible to encounter intelligent maids because many of them, especially those working abroad, were degree holders or college undergraduates.

"Inday is overqualified for her job. In fact, intelligent Filipino maids working abroad often incite anger in their married female employers who are envious of them," Gonzaga said.

Pacis pointed out that "in the first place, no *kasambahay* should suffer such indignity if society sent every one of them to school."

"It is precisely the lack of education that pushes many young girls to come to the city from the province, hoping for a chance to work and study at the same time. Yet many employers continue to deny them this right to education," he said.

Gonzaga said employers should not think that their maids were content to be maids forever.

"They are doing this for their families. Many maids also want to study, learn new talents, and take up training to improve their skills," she said.

Gonzaga said what she also found funny was the way the employer—presumed to be rich and educated—would get unsettled by Inday's replies.

"We think it's funny because we believe a maid like Inday is impossible. But then, is there such a real person as Inday's employer, who can tolerate her ways? In bourgeois households, any maid who is—or tries to be—more intelligent than the employer is sure to get fired," Gonzaga said.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 6 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Cory a victim, too; son hits 'insensitive' joke"—mistakenly described John Edwards as a former US presidential candidate. Edwards was a vice presidential candidate in the 2004 US election. He is currently vying for the Democratic presidential nomination for next year's US election.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 7 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A12 of the Opinion section—"Squid tactics"—misspelled the first name of the lawyer who recently filed an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House of Representatives. The lawyer's name is Roel—not Ruel—Pulido. The same mistake appeared in previous articles.

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Trade pact to open Japan to RP agri products – DA

By Amy R. Remo and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES MAY OBTAIN FROM Japan improved market access concessions for its agricultural and fishery products under the proposed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

The Department of Agriculture said the agreement, in particular, would allow the elimination of tariffs ranging from 5 to 20 percent and the reduction of tariffs and/or the creation of tariff rate quotas (TRQs) within three to 10 years.

"These concessions will allow the Philippines to both secure and expand export market opportunities in Japan," the DA said.

It added that this agreement would give Filipino exporters to Japan more "stability" regarding tariff rates.

If approved, the Jpepa will secure the export of some $353 million (P15.6 billion) worth of existing agricultural and fishery exports to Japan, which are currently enjoying zero-percent duties, low tariffs or tariff preferences through Japan's General System of Preferences (GSP).

Locked in

Last year, Philippine exports to Japan amounted to $418 million (P18.5 billion), the DA said.

Major exports whose zero-percent duties will be "locked-in" immediately to its current rate include: shrimps and prawns; lobsters, guavas, mangoes, and papayas; coconut products; and mixtures of fruit and vegetable juices.

Current major exports whose tariffs will be eliminated immediately or within three to 10 years are: octopus (frozen/dried/salted), mango (uncooked/cooked by steaming), tuna (frozen whole/in pieces/not minced), fresh small bananas, dried papayas and coco vinegar.

Meanwhile, major exports whose tariffs will be reduced, or where TRQs will be created include: fresh regular bananas, cane molasses and fresh small pineapples.

Tapping other markets

According to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the Philippines will likewise secure an existing export market for its non-GSP products, amounting to about $66 million (P2.9 billion) due to these market access improvements.

Some current non-GSP exports whose tariffs will be bound at zero percent or eliminated immediately include live rabbits, live ornamental fish, milkfish (fresh/chilled/frozen) mushroom spawn, eucheuma and carageenan (seaweed).

Yap added that the Philippines could also tap Japan's other export markets which include live eels, carp, beans, ginger and processed meats (sausages and preserved pork).

He said the import value for such products in 2005 reached $763 million (P33.8 billion).

"Realizing just five-percent share of this market can help increase the value of Philippine agricultural and fishery exports by almost 10 percent," Yap explained.

Ratify Jpepa

In a related development, a coalition of 20 groups representing business chambers, workers and industry sectors yesterday urged the Senate to ratify the Jpepa.

The coalition included the Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Federation of Free Workers, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines, Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation (CCPF), Makati Business Club, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Port Users Confederation, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Association.

New jobs

Top officials of these organizations, who gathered yesterday at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, said the Philippines could not afford to be left out as a major production base for important industries such as automotive, furniture, electronics and semiconductors considering current efforts to integrate the economies of East Asia as well as the advances of the global production network where Japan plays a key role.

"Taking into account just the static effects of Jpepa, these industries will benefit from an additional capital surplus or investment of up to $444 million (P19.6 billion)," they said in their manifesto.

Francis Chua, CCPF president emeritus, said the expected investments that Jpepa would bring also represented at least 100,000 new jobs in four industries alone.

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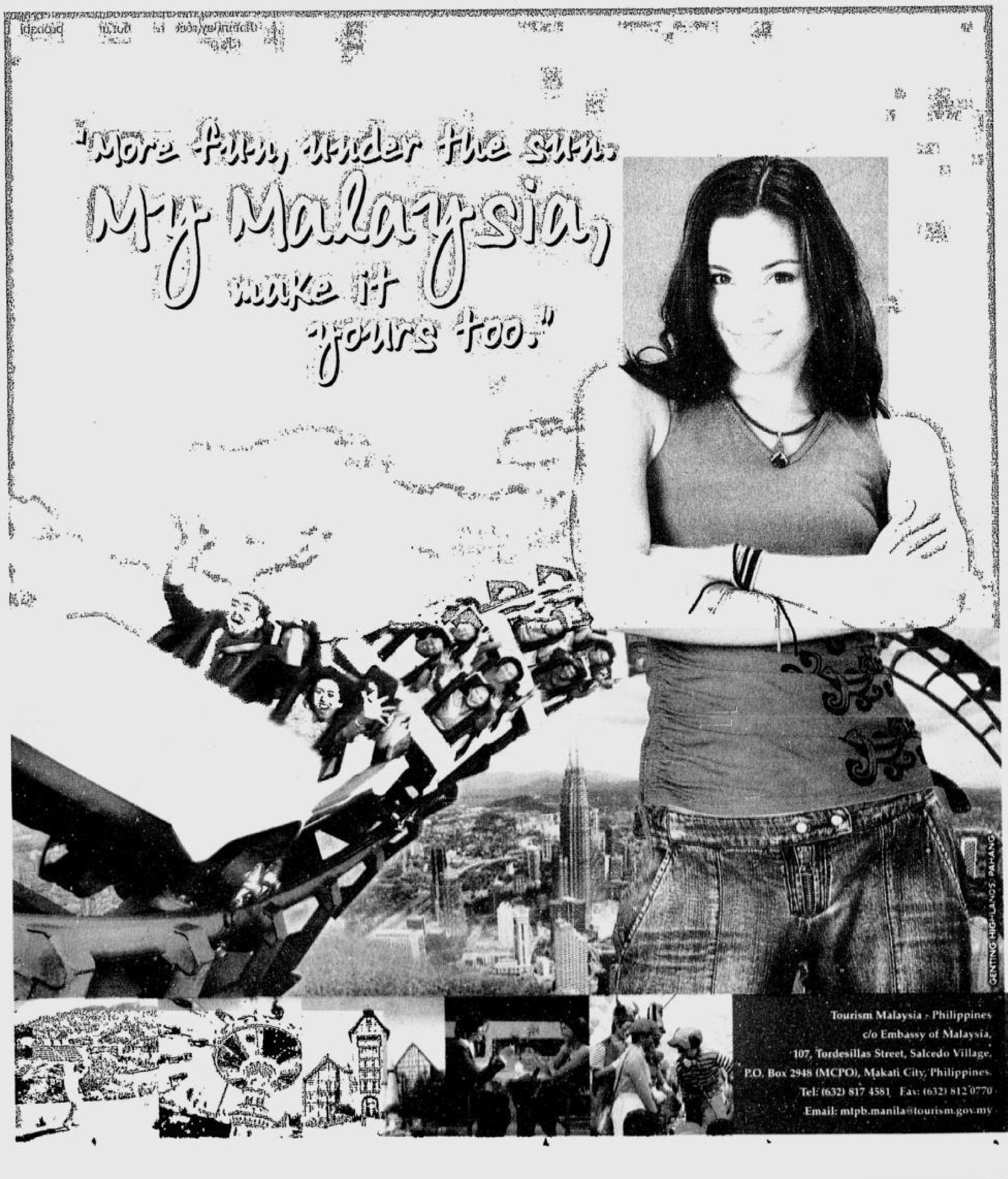

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Tree-cutting permit on Sibuyan slammed

By TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning

THE HARIBON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP has questioned the environment department's issuing a permit allowing the cutting of trees in Sibuyan island, which it said threatens endemic species found there, in preparation for mining operations.

Haribon executive director Anabelle Plantilla said threatened tree species were among the tens of thousands that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed three companies to cut down in San Fernando town.

She said she had seen the tree-cutting permits and these covered yakal and apitong species, which are included in the national list of threatened Philippine plant species.

The DENR confirmed having issued a permit to the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC) to cut down more than 19,000 trees, including saplings, poles and mature trees, in Barangay España.

More permits

It also granted permits to All Acacia Resources and San Pacific Resources Phil. to cut down more than 57,000 trees and more than 38,000 trees in Barangay Taclobo, also in San Fernando.

Local anti-mining groups said that mining activity on the island has grown so much that there are 13 active mining sites surrounding the mountain and the national park.

The island has come under the spotlight after an environmentalist, town councilor Armin Marin, was killed by a SNPDC guard while leading a protest against mining in San Fernando last Wednesday.

Sibuyanons, anti-mining advocates and green groups called for the pullout of mining firms in the island, but the DENR rejected this, saying the decision to recall their permits lay with the Romblon provincial government.

Plantilla said the tree-cutting permits were proof that the DENR prioritized the utilization, rather than the protection of the country's resources.

Environment Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi said that if the Romblon provincial government opts to recall the permits, the DENR would also do so.

As of now, there's nothing to stop the SNPDC from cutting down trees and mining ore in some forest lands in España and Taclobo barangays, which the DENR maintains are outside the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park.

The DENR said it would closely monitor the cutting of trees specified in the permit, and the restoration of the site to its original state as spelled out in its environmental compliance certificate.

Marin's body is to be carried in a procession around the island tomorrow, a day before the buriak, according to Rodne Galicha, a Sibuyanon and member of the Sibuyanons Against Mining Movement (SAM).

"SAM is inviting everyone, all environmentalists, all who love Sibuyan, to converge in the island," he said.

Romblon Gov. Natalio Beltran III meanwhile has urged Environment Secretary Lito Atienza to put a stop to the cutting of "75,000 trees" in Sibuyan.

"Based on my personal observation and study, nickel ore give off some kind of heat and this hinders plant growth. So the mining sites are supposed to be treeless and there's no need for the cutting of any tree," he said in a phone interview.

Bound by agreement

Beltran said the provincial government was bound by the agreement entered into with the SNPDC by his predecessor.

"At this point, we can only act as regulator, to see to it that all environment laws are complied with by the company. Because if they don't, I'll order the mining stopped," he said.

Claims that the mining contracts were railroaded and that communities were not consulted about the project are now hard to prove, he said.

The governor said that he was personally opposed to mining, especially gold mining, because of the destruction of the environment that mining entails.

Beltran noted that the SNPDC has not yet started any mining operations and that the company does not yet even have any equipment on the island.

Republic of China (Taiwan) Marks 96th National Day Anniversary

Taiwan's high-speed rail link covers 345 kilometers and runs at a top speed of 300 kilometers per hour.

A Glance at Taiwan

Area: 36,000 sq km
Population: 22.92 million (August 2007)
Life Expectancy: 77.46 years (2006)
Language: Mandarin/Holo Taiwanese/Hakka
Per capita GNP: US$16,471 (2006)
Economic growth rate: 4.68% (2006)
Foreign exchange reserves: US$266.287 million (July 2007)
Media: 2.721 (include terrestrial TV stations, cable television system, radio system and newspaper)
Literacy Rate (above age 15): 97.5%
Number of College and University: 147
Total Trade Volume: US$217.3 billion (Jan.-Jun. 2007), US$426.7 billion (2006)
Freedom: The 1st place (Conducted by Freedom House)
E-government performance: The 2nd world's place (Conducted by Brown University)
Investment climate: The 6th world's place (Conducted by Business Environment Risk Intelligence)
Global growth competitiveness: The 13th world's place (Conducted by the Switzerland World Economic Forum)

Taiwan-Philippines Relations

TAIWAN
PHILIPPINES

Taiwan is the 7th largest foreign investment in the Philippines: total investment Amount US$ 1.3 billion
Philippine exports to Taiwan: US$ 1.28 billion (Jan.-July 2007)
Philippine imports from Taiwan: US$ 2.63 billion (Jan.-July 2007)
OFWs in Taiwan: 96,434 persons (Jan.-Aug. 2007)
Trips to the Philippines by Taiwanese: 115,000 persons (the top 5th in foreign tourist arrivals in the Philippines in 2006)

Welcome to Taiwan

The island of Taiwan offers sunny beaches, richly forested mountains, sleepy countrysides. Temples and monuments of both Chinese and Japanese heritage mix with high-rises in cities that keep going until dawn. Dazzling festivals, luxuriant hotsprings, delectable dining - they all lie in store

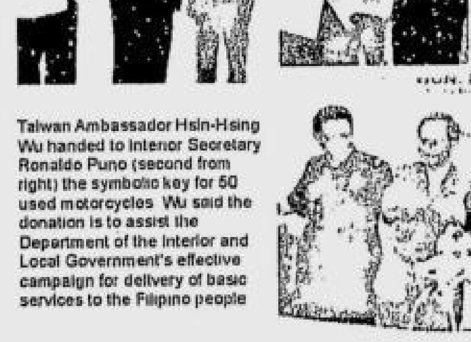
Taiwan's diverse topography and culture, and its vibrant commercial environment, make it a choice destination for traveler and business visitor alike.

Located roughly equidistant from Japan and Korea to the north, the Philippines to the south, and mainland China to the west, Taiwan makes a perfect launching point for further travels in East Asia

For most of the world, Taiwan is known for its manufactured goods, and for its continuing saga of diplomatic struggle, but the real Taiwan lies unexplored So take a quick look - there's plenty to discover

Batanes opened its first ever farmers and fishermen market in the provincial capital, Basco, on March 24. 2007. The market was partially financed by the government of Taiwan through its Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in the Philippines. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Basco town center where Dr. Hsin-Hsing Wu (second from left), Taiwan Ambassador to the Philippines, together with Batanes Gov. Vicente Gato (left) jointly cut the ribbon.

Taiwan Ambassador Hsin-Hsing Wu (3rd from left) hands over to Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (2nd from left) the ADOC Deed of Donation for the e-Learning Digital Center at Lakang Dula High School in Tondo, Binondo at the inauguration ceremony held on September 19



Ambassador Hsin-Hsing Wu (second left), representative of Taiwan looks on as Kent K.T. wang (first left). director general of the Transportation Bureau of Kaohsiung City government turns over the symbolic key to Cebu Mayor tomas Osmena.

HON. RONALDO V. PUNO
HSIN-HSING WU

Taiwan Ambassador Hsin-Hsing Wu handed to Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno (second from right) the symbolic key for 50 used motorcycles Wu said the donation is to assist the Department of the Interior and Local Government's effective campaign for delivery of basic services to the Filipino people

Message

The Republic of China (Taiwan) commemorates its 96th National Day today proud of its achievements and filled with much optimism for the future On this happy occasion, I extend to the Filipino people and to our compatriots here the warm greetings of the 23 million people in Taiwan and our government led by President Chen Shui-bian

Our two peoples have long enjoyed friendly relations. As close neighbors we share a common geography, history and culture, and cherished the same values of freedom and democracy.

The bilateral trade volume of US$7.26 billion makes Taiwan the 5th biggest trading partner of the Philippines, the 7th largest foreign investor with an aggregate investments of US$1.35 billion, after Japan, USA, UK, the Netherlands, Singapore and South Korea The Philippines' 5th overseas labor market with 170,000 OFWs remitting a total of US$1 billion annually. Tourists from Taiwan comprise 4.6 percent or 114,955 of the total number of foreign visitors.

As part of its humanitarian commitment, Taiwan donated US$300,000 to the Philippines for relief operations and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures due to Typhoon Durian in November 2006 The Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation sent medical missions to Mindanao while the Eden Social Welfare Foundation donated wheelchairs to charitable organizations.

I am confident that with the untiring efforts of our two governments the cooperation and partnership, and traditionally warm close friendship of our two peoples will be farther strengthened

MABUHAY!

HSIN-HSING WU, Ph.D.
Representative:
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office
Taiwan, ROC

Fight vs ABC unites feuding Pinoys in US

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—THE INCREASINGLY heated campaign against a perceived slur against Filipino doctors on a recent episode of "Desperate Housewives" has shown that Filipino Americans, when united, are capable of highly coordinated action.

There had been differences among Fil-Am groups over campaign strategies, said Arnedo Valera, legal counsel for the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon). Valera led a group of Fil-Am community leaders who held a dialog with Robert Mendez, ABC television network's senior vice president for diversity, on Oct. 5 in New York City.

But in the end, divergent groups came together in achieving one goal—to defend the reputation of Filipino health professionals and make a statement against racism. "We have agreed to stand united with respect to (our) demands and plans of actions," said Valera, a Washington DC-based lawyer who also serves as executive director of the Migrant Heritage Commission.

"We are taking this great opportunity to join forces and show our strength as the second largest minority group in the United States," he added.

While the militant Nafcon leads a boycott of the network and its parent company, Walt Disney Company, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Naffaa) plans to sit down with Mendez, in a second round of talks, on Tuesday.

Nafcon spokesperson Rico Foz said they decided to call for a boycott and escalated protest actions after facing a tough stand-off with Mendez on their demand for a broadcast apology. This decision was backed by a progressive group within Naffaa, led by California-based lawyer Rodel Rodis.

"The Filipino community needs to apply continuous pressure on ABC," said Rodis, who is also spearheading efforts to form an antidefamation committee and preparing a class action suit against ABC.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 10, 2007
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 4:1-11
Gospel: Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name,
may your kingdom come,
give us each day the kind of bread we need,
and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong,
and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

Jonah is distressed that the people repented! He wanted to see the wrath of God come upon them! He is miserable and wants to die. He pities himself and goes out into the desert to wait and see. And God provides a plant for him—shade. But then the plant dies and Jonah groans and wants to die. Jonah is more concerned over the plant that shaded him than the whole people of Nineveh. God is concerned about all the peoples of the world and all that he has created.

Jesus is often found having gone off to pray—for the world and all the peoples for whom he came to bring God's message of forgiveness, love, justice and peace. He also teaches us to pray as he prayed. We are to be concerned with what God is concerned about and we are to care for everyone as God does. We are not to single ourselves out, but see ourselves as part of God's children, all in need of food, forgiveness, and strength for our lives. Is this how we pray?

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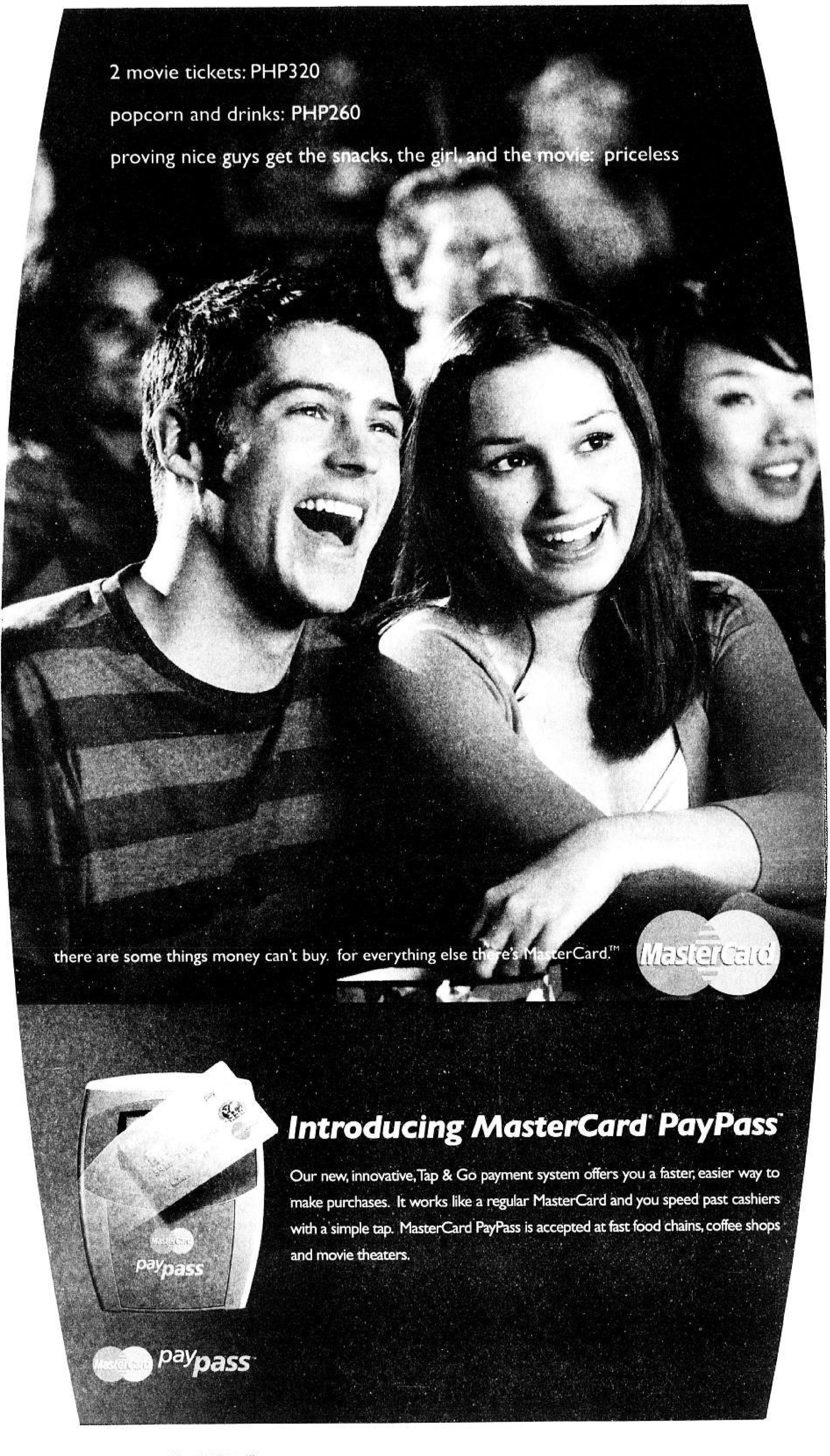
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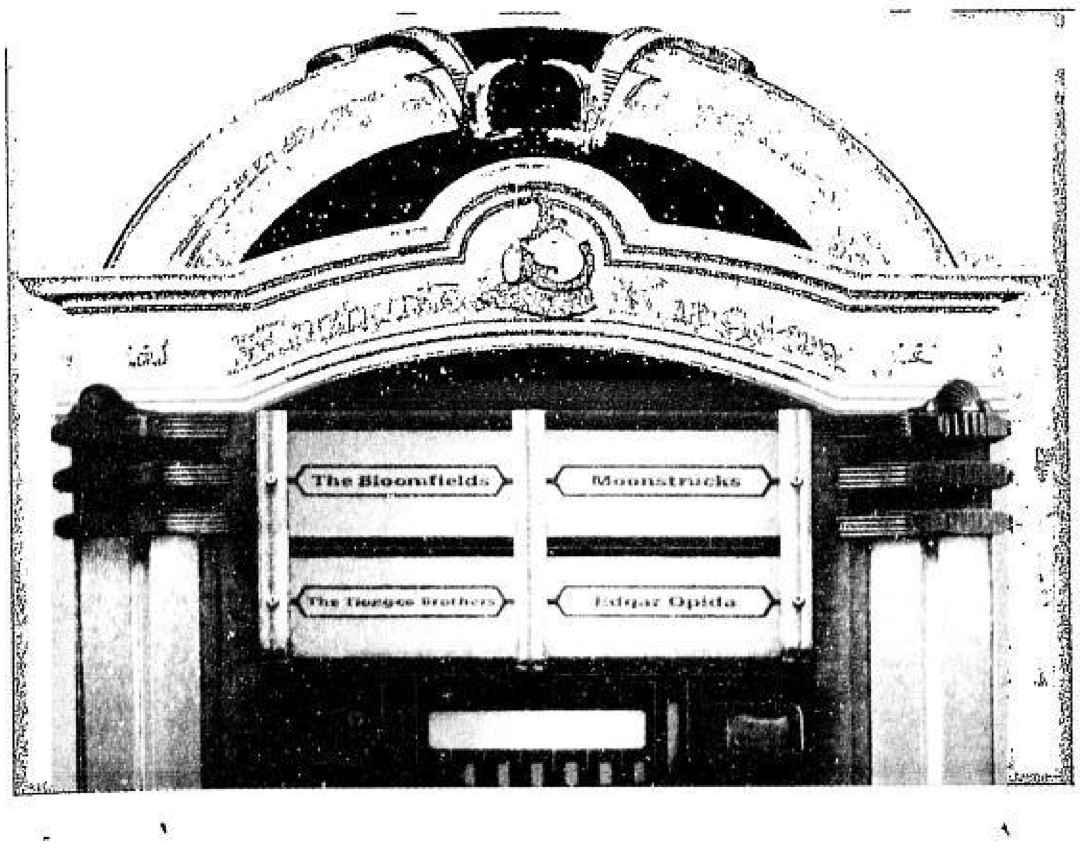

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COA finds P329-M textbooks unused

From page A1

tributed contrary to the department's policy of ensuring that textbooks should be in the hands of students," said the report.

An inventory of these books revealed that in Metro Manila alone, more than 580,000 copies amounting to P42 million have yet to be issued to students, while about 294,000 materials were still undistributed in Eastern Visayas (Region 8).

'Riddled with errors'

Explaining the "unnecessary storage" of these textbooks, the DepEd said the bulk of these books found in all the regions, except Cagayan Valley (Region 2), did not comply with the revised education curriculum and the minimum learning competencies.

In the four regions—Metro Manila, Central Luzon (Region 3), Central Visayas (Region 7) and Eastern Visayas (Region 8)—the books were riddled with factual and grammatical errors. In Metro Manila, P17 million worth of textbooks purchased by the Mandaluyong City government duplicated the national procurement.

Other reasons provided by the DepEd included the refusal of teachers to accept these books for fear of liability for losses, the books could not be used on a 1:1 ratio, and the purchase was unplanned.

"The textbooks were procured even if these do not comply with the revised basic education curriculum. Thus, the use of scarce resources was not maximized resulting in an enormous waste of government funds in the amount of P186,963,539.90," the COA said.

Monitoring needed

The COA said the DepEd should determine the actual textbook situation, which would form the basis for the preparation of an allocation and distribution list, and monitor distribution.

It also recommended that permanent personnel be involved procuring and distributing books and sanctions must be prescribed against them for the loss suffered by the government.

The COA report also highlighted the P138.84 million worth of computers which were either reported missing or underutilized due to lack of technical resources and facilities to operate the computers.

The bulk of these ICT packages worth P115 million was being used for administrative purposes instead.

Each package consisted of 349 units of computers, compact discs (CDs), workbooks and teacher's manuals as aids of instruction for English, Math and Science for elementary schools, and English, Chemistry and Geography for high school.

The packages were delivered to eight school divisions in Western Visayas (Region 6) between 2004 and 2006.

Based on the COA inspection, 280 of these units were found in the offices of principals or district supervisors and were being used for preparing reports and financial statements instead of for instructional purposes. (There were 13 units noted to be defective.)

Teacher training

The DepEd justified this by saying that the computer supplier did not provide the teachers training to operate the computers. It also said that most of the CDs could not be installed.

Some principals explained that they kept these computer gadgets in their offices because it was safer and that they could not set up a laboratory for lack of secured air-conditioned rooms, maintenance funds and trained teachers, among others.

In Eastern Visayas, 567 units, amounting to about P16.9 million of IT equipments, and 206 units with undetermined cost remained idle in stockrooms due to defects.

Some P6 million worth of computer equipment bought out of the Priority Development Assistance Fund were traced to a congressional office in Central Luzon.

"Procured computer textbooks were not appropriate for the schoolchildren's required level of competency. Thus, these ICT hardware and software and instructional materials have not benefited the beneficiary schoolchildren," the COA noted.

Flawed CDs

It further noted that more government funds worth P434,000 were wasted on flawed CDs.

The COA also reported that molds had already beaten schoolchildren in Agusan del Sur to some P3.4 million worth of 8,244 units of instructional materials (video tapes and CDs).

It cited the wet weather in the province as among the reasons for the accumulation of molds in these materials.

Also, defective VHS players have prevented teachers from using these video tapes.

These players could not be repaired "due to unavailability of spare parts in the market, obsolescence and lack of funds for repair," it said.

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GMA, JDV: No way will our coalition break up

From page A1

allow the coalition to break."

The luncheon meeting came after a lawyer filed an impeachment complaint against the President and graft charges against the Speaker in connection with the controversial $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

The ZTE deal has been tainted with allegations of bribery and overpricing and has linked the President's husband and the Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, to the controversy.

House Assistant Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales Jr. said the meeting "was an appeal for unity, for us not to lose focus, for us not to be sidetracked by all these."

Some lawmakers said the impeachment complaint was aimed at immunizing Ms Arroyo from a more formidable complaint, and at preventing De Venecia "loyalists" from retaliating against her for allowing her allies to seek his ouster.

Only one impeachment complaint can be filed against the President in one year.

Lawmakers said that making Ms Arroyo immune from another impeachment complaint would make it easier for forces in the administration coalition to mount ouster moves against the Speaker.

Ms Arroyo founded Kampi in 1997 and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, revived it when she became president.

Ms Arroyo is the Lakas chair while De Venecia is the party president.

Puno said the impeachment complaint appeared to be meant to drive a wedge between De Venecia's Lakas and Ms Arroyo's Kampi.

Lakas vs Kampi?

Since last week, some events have caused misunderstanding between Lakas-CMD and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), both members of the administration coalition in the House, according to Gonzales.

First, Lakas felt that the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido was more against De Venecia than the President, Gonzales said.

He noted that two-thirds of Pulido's complaint was against the Speaker and the rest was against Ms Arroyo.

Then, there was the House leadership's move to take up in session the proposal to change the rules on impeachment, he said.

Manny Pacquiao's call

Gonzales said Ms Arroyo told those at the luncheon meeting that she had just spoken to Manny Pacquiao, who told her that his victory over Mexican boxer Marco Antonio Barrera was dedicated to the people and was for the country's unity.

Ms Arroyo then said that if Pacquiao could do that, those at the meeting should unite for the good of the country, the assistant majority leader said.

Defensor said Kampi was represented at the meeting by Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa of Occidental Mindoro and Cebu Rep. Pablo John Garcia, a son of De Venecia's rival in the last speakership race, Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia.

Best of terms

After a Cabinet meeting, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno insisted that Ms Arroyo and De Venecia continued to have good relations and that he, too, shared the same ties with the Speaker.

"We're on the best of terms. You will remove the Speaker over my dead body," Puno said.

At the luncheon meeting, someone mentioned "in passing" the impeachment complaint and the President "effectively belied any knowledge" of Malacañang having a hand in it, Gonzales said.

STOP THE WITCH-HUNTS, FOCUS ON LOCAL AUTONOMY & ECO GROWTH

As the nation observes this week another anniversary of the Local Government Code, we, the members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), underscore the urgency for Congress to seriously consider reform legislation on further devolution of political and fiscal autonomy to local government units (LGUs) in sync with the spirit and intent of this landmark law.

With the economy on the upswing, the Senate, or the whole Congress for that matter, should give a long hard look at the Local Government Code and see what fine-tuning or new measures are needed to further devolve political and fiscal autonomy to LGUs.

Such a revisit is necessary at this juncture to make sure that the economic bonanza that the Philippines is starting to enjoy would, in the long run, truly trickle down to the provinces instead of being concentrated in the so-called 'Imperial Manila' alone as what had happened in previous boom cycles.

We are thus calling on the honorable members of the Senate to end their long-winding investigations into the cancelled National Broadband Network (NBN) contract of the ZTE Corp. and the revived "Hello, Garci" controversy so they could instead focus on more urgent concerns such as further reforms on local autonomy to enable the countryside to reap the full benefits of the nascent economic turnaround on the Arroyo watch.

These investigations have already lost relevance in the light of succeeding developments and given the increasing public perception that these have turned into thinly-veiled springboards for the 2010 political agendas of certain legislators and opposition leaders.

With regard to the ZTE-NBN inquiry, we see no need for our senators to summon, much less subpoena, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, newly resigned Comelec chairman Benjamin Abalos and former economic planning secretary Romulo Neri, considering that the probe has been rendered moot by Malacanang's cancellation of the broadband contract itself and Abalos' decision to step down ahead of his scheduled retirement in 2008.

Save for the extensive media mileage that senators are likely to harvest in forcing the First Gentleman to appear before the chamber, there is actually no need for him to appear before the Senate because the supposed whistleblower—businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III—had categorically stated in the first Senate hearing that neither President Arroyo nor her husband was involved in the NBN project

Ditto for the inquiry into the allegation of ex-T/Sgt. Vidal Doble that the military bugged the telephone conversations of former Comelec chairman Virgilio Garcillano and President Arroyo herself during the 2004 election campaign season, given that Doble has already been unmasked in the Senate hearings as a perjured witness and that no other person had testified to corroborate his wild charges of wiretapping.

Our continuing consultations with our respective constituents indicate that an overwhelming majority of our people now view these Senate hearings as witch-hunts and orchestrated hack jobs on the Arroyo presidency. The ever-growing public disenchantment with these investigations can best be gleaned from last weekend's call by no less than Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal for a halt to the ZTE-NBN inquiry on the ground that the senators have become too 'personal' and were going out of the ambit of the contract itself in their grilling.

So rather than squander precious congressional hours on investigations that most Filipinos now see, not as 'in aid of legislation' but 'in aid to reelection or to presidential ambitions,' our senators could better spend their time attending to priority measures that would sustain—and accelerate—the turnaround of the economy, brought about by the macroeconomic reforms put in place by the President since she took over in 2001.

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Governor, Eastern Samar
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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

2 aging Pinays get Japanese nationality

TOKYO—JAPAN HAS GRANTed citizenship to two elderly women born in the Philippines before World War II who did not have Japanese citizenship records of their fathers, supporters said Tuesday.

Tokyo Family Court granted nationality to Juanita Sakamoto, 80, and Melecia Yoshikawa, 89, said the Philippine Nikkeijin Legal Support Center, a support group.

"I am very happy," Yoshikawa told a news conference Monday in Manila where she signed citizenship documents.

A court official was not immediately available for comment.

Two Japanese-Filipina sisters won nationality for the first time in February last year, paving the way for their families to live and work in Japan, which has tight restrictions on immigration.

But the latest case was the first time it was given without proof their fathers were Japanese.

Some 2,500 children of Japanese origin were left in the Philippines after the war, facing discrimination and poverty with many never knowing the names of their fathers.

Yoshikawa was born to a Filipina and a Japanese man, Masutaro, who had immigrated before the war as a construction worker.

Masutaro died of disease in 1932. The court recognized Yoshikawa was a Japanese descendant from the records of construction projects that Masutaro had been engaged in, the support group said.

Sakamoto's father, Takeichi, immigrated to the Philippines before World War II and married a Filipina in 1923.

Fluent in Tagalog, English and Spanish, he worked for the Japanese army during their 1942-1945 occupation and was taken captive by US forces who seized back the Philippines.

The Japanese court confirmed Sakamoto's relation to her Japanese father from records kept by the US forces, the support group said.

"In both cases, the court also recognized their Philippine birth records as proving their relations to Japanese fathers, although some items such as a first name were not registered exactly accurately," the support group's director Toshiko Takano said.

Her group said about 800 more people were in the same situation as Sakamoto and Yoshikawa, with Japan not recognizing their nationality, and that 40 similar cases remain before the Tokyo court. *AFP*

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DENR red carpet for Pacquiao

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources is preparing a rousing welcome for Manny Pacquiao when he flies home this week from his recent triumph in Las Vegas.

The DENR will literally roll out the red carpet for Pacquiao, fresh from his second conquest of Mexican boxing champ Marco Antonio Barrera, when he pays a courtesy call on Secretary Lito Atienza.

"He's a hero," William Ragos, director for special concerns, said in an interview, explaining the reason for the welcome. "He's an icon to Filipinos, and he has brought glory to the country."

Pacquiao is expected to arrive in Manila on Friday.

It's the first time the department is mounting the red carpet welcome for a sports icon, an honor usually reserved for ranking government officials and ambassadors, among other VIPs.

It's no secret that Atienza is a father-figure to the boxing icon. He had reveled in Pacquiao's conquests, riding with him in victory motorcades around Manila's crowded streets when he was the city mayor.

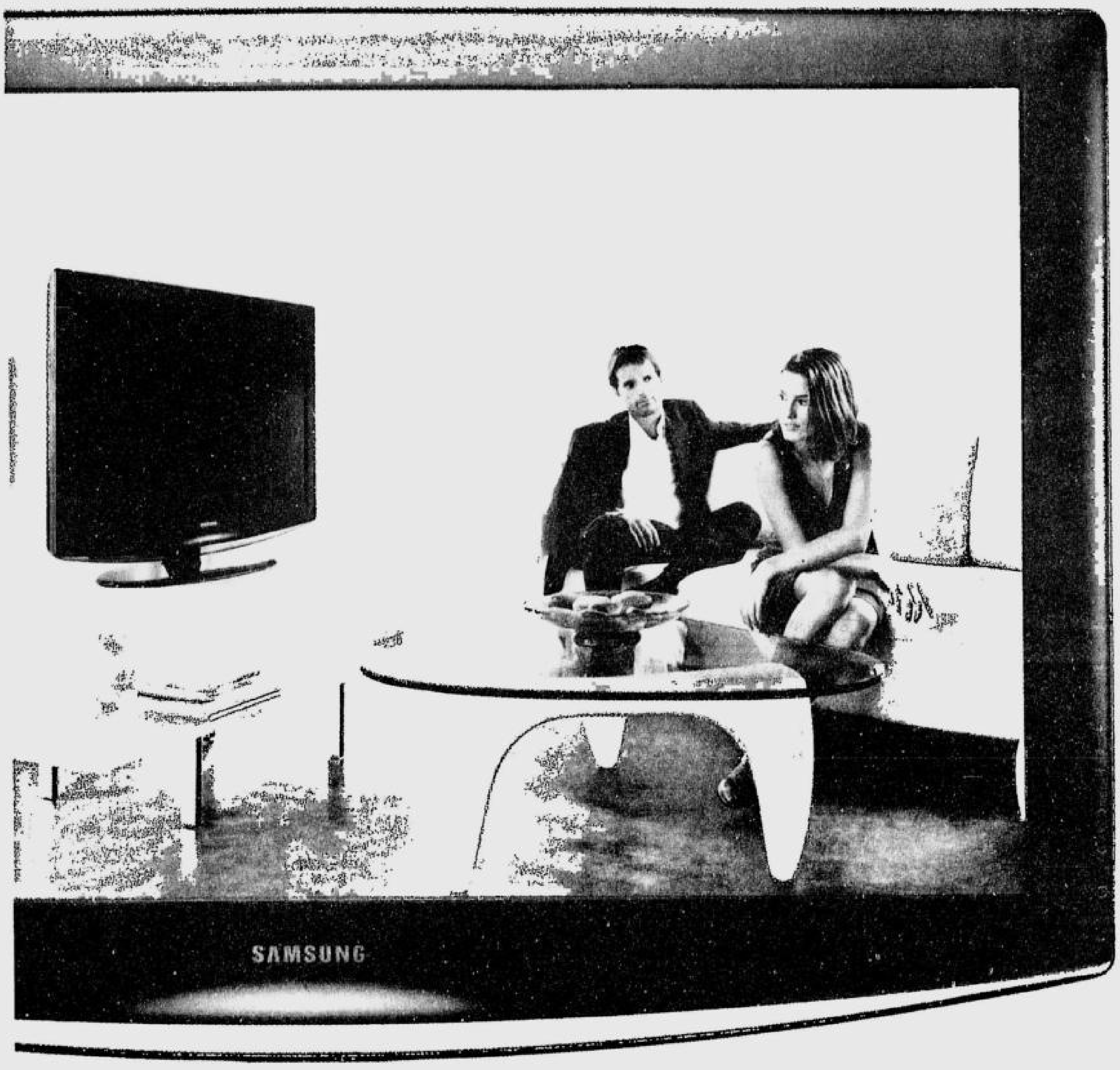
Atienza was at ringside when the 28-year-old boxer from General Santos City, hacked out a unanimous decision over the older, more experienced Barrera in a fight broadcast worldwide.

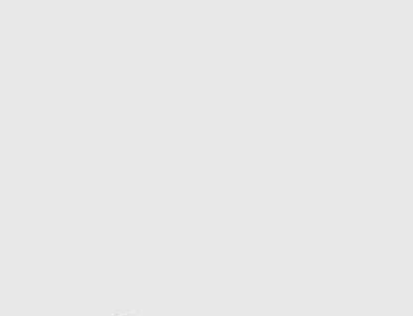
Pacquiao knocked the Mexican down in the 11th round in their first clash four years ago.

When he's driven to the DENR main office in Quezon City, Pacquiao should expect to be greeted by streamers on the gate and facade of the building, and mobbed by his adoring fans at the department.

"We have advised all employees to receive Manny, and make him feel that he's welcome here," Ragos said.

The department insisted that this would be much simpler than the usually festive, raucous welcome hosted by Atienza at the Manila City Hall in the past, according to Ragos. *TJ Burgonio*





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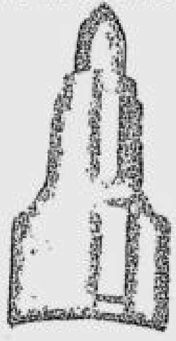

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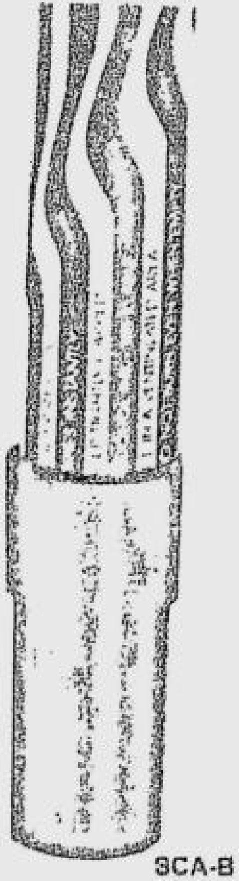

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Heartbreak can kill, study proves, sort of

From page A1

negative aspects of close relationships ... are associated with coronary heart disease."

'Protective effect'

Previous research has linked health problems with being single and having few close relationships. In other words, more social connections can mean a healthier life—the so-called "protective effect." Few studies have looked at how close friendships or marriages affect health.

In the new study led by Roberto de Vogli, an epidemiologist at the University College London, his team of researchers focused more on the quality of marriage and other important relationships.

"What we add here is that, 'OK, being married is in general good, but be careful about the kind of person you have married.' The quality of the relationship matters," De Vogli said.

A recent study involving nearly 4,000 men and women also looked at quality of relationships but had different results. The study, published online in the journal Psychosomatic Medicine in July, found no association between marital woes in general and risks for heart disease or early death.

But the study found, over a 10-year follow-up period, that women who kept silent during marital arguments had an increased risk of dying compared with wives who expressed their feelings during fights.

What appeared to matter more for men was just being married. Married men were less likely to die during the follow-up than single men.

Equal risks

In De Vogli's study, men and women with bad relationships faced equal risks.

De Vogli's research team studied a total of 9,011 civil servants, most of them married, who completed questionnaires about negative aspects of their relationships—with spouses, partners, close relatives and friends.

The volunteers filled out questionnaires asking them to rate the person to whom they felt closest on several measures, including the extent to which that person "gives you worries, problems and stress."

The volunteers also were asked whether they felt they could confide in that person, whether talking with that person made them feel worse, and whether they could count on that person for something as simple as a ride to the grocery store.

The questionnaires were filled out either between 1985 and 1988 or 1989 and 1990.

Over the following 12 years, 589 participants had heart attacks or other heart problems. Over the same period, De Vogli and his team found that people who reported that arguments, criticism and other types of conflict were common in their close relationships had a 34 percent greater risk of heart attacks or chest pain.

When the researchers stripped out risk factors, such as obesity, hypertension, smoking, drinking and family history, the chance of a heart attack for people in bad relationships was still 23 percent higher, De Vogli said.

"If you have good people around, it is good for your health," he said in a telephone interview. "If you have negative people around, it is much worse for your health."

The study did not look at whether a bad relationship played a role in the severity of a heart attack.

"It seems clear from this analysis that no matter if positive aspects of social relationships are having a significant protective effect, the negative impact seems far stronger," De Vogli said.

"People continually replay negative experiences," he pointed out.

Intuitive sense

James Coyne, a University of Pennsylvania psychology professor who also has examined the health impact of social relationships, said De Vogli's results made "intuitive sense."

But Coyne said De Vogli's study found only a weak association that did not prove bad relationships could cause heart disease.

"It is still not clear what to recommend," he said. "Do we tell people who have negative relationships to get therapy? They may have other reasons to do so, but I see no basis for them doing so only to avoid a heart attack."

Ending a bad marriage is not necessarily the answer either, Coyne said, given evidence that being unmarried also could be a risk. *Reports from Reuters and AP*

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Family, not ...

From page A1

ness include friends (8.57), financial security (8.3), education (8.25), love life (8.2) and work (7.94).

The study was based on a nonrandom poll of 167 respondents conducted during the National Convention on Statistics held on Oct. 1-2.

Nonrandom sampling means that the questionnaire was given only to those who wanted to answer it during the convention without a specific target group in mind, Jessamyn Encarnacion of the NSCB Social Statistics Office explained in a phone interview.

'Quite surprising'

In a statement, Virola said it was "quite surprising" that sex (6.39) was not an important source of happiness, and that at 14th place, it was ranked among the five least important.

"Also, leisure and sports, surprisingly, is the sixth least important domain. I thought we loved Manny Pacquiao," he said, referring to the Filipino boxing sensation who posted his latest ring conquest on Sunday.

Politics was the least important source of happiness with 5.84. "I wonder if our congressmen and senators realize this," Virola noted.

Other unimportant domains of happiness are cultural activities (5.88), community and volunteer work (6.24), and government (6.53).

"The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Philippine Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency and related (offices) obviously need to do something if they want our countrymen to appreciate what they are supposed to promote," the official remarked.

Levels of happiness

In terms of "level of happiness," the NSCB study also found that Filipinos were happy with their family lives with a happiness index rating of 88.5 percent. They were also happy with friends (83.6 percent), religion (79.8 percent) and love lives (79.4 percent).

"Health, which is supposed to be the second most important source of happiness, unfortunately gets only 78 percent, meaning that people are not getting any healthier or that we worry too much about our health," NSCB noted.

While sex life did not rank as an important source of happiness, the respondents gave it an index rating of 72.6 percent, meaning they were happier with sex than they were with work (71 percent), leisure and sports (70 percent), financial security (68.8 percent) and cultural activities (66.6 percent).

The study also found that people were happier "with domains that are within their control than those not within their control, like politics."

Six out of 10 respondents also agreed that "progress is synonymous with happiness."

Women happier

The study also showed that Filipino women tended to be happier than men, and that "happiness rises with income."

Encarnacion also coauthored a paper, "Measuring Progress of Philippine Society: Gross National Product or Gross National Happiness," which was presented during the convention.

The questionnaire listed the following factors: family, friends, religion, love life, health, education, sex life, work, leisure and sports, community and volunteer work, technological know-how, income and financial security, cultural activities, environment, economy, government and politics.

The NSCB conducted two pilot tests of the questionnaire, which was formulated in relation to a proposed Philippine Happiness Index.

On a list of 95 countries, the Philippines had landed on the "middle-range" of the World Database of Happiness Index. From 1995 to 2005, the country's average rating of 6.4 placed it in about the same bracket as India (6.2), Iran, (6.0), Poland (5.9) and South Korea (5.8.)

The WDHI is currently topped by Denmark, with a rating of 8.2.

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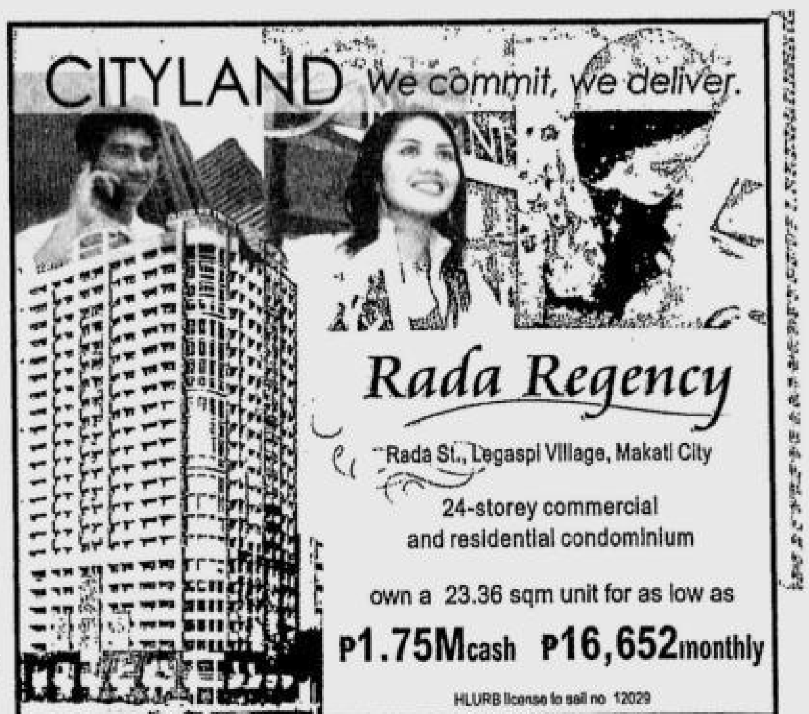

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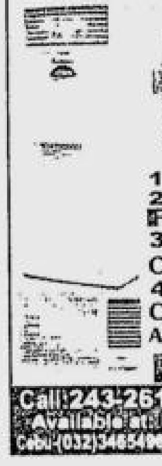

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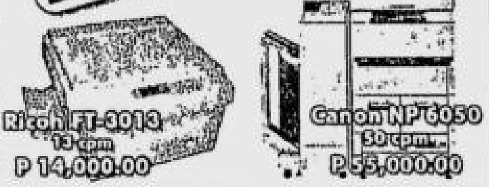

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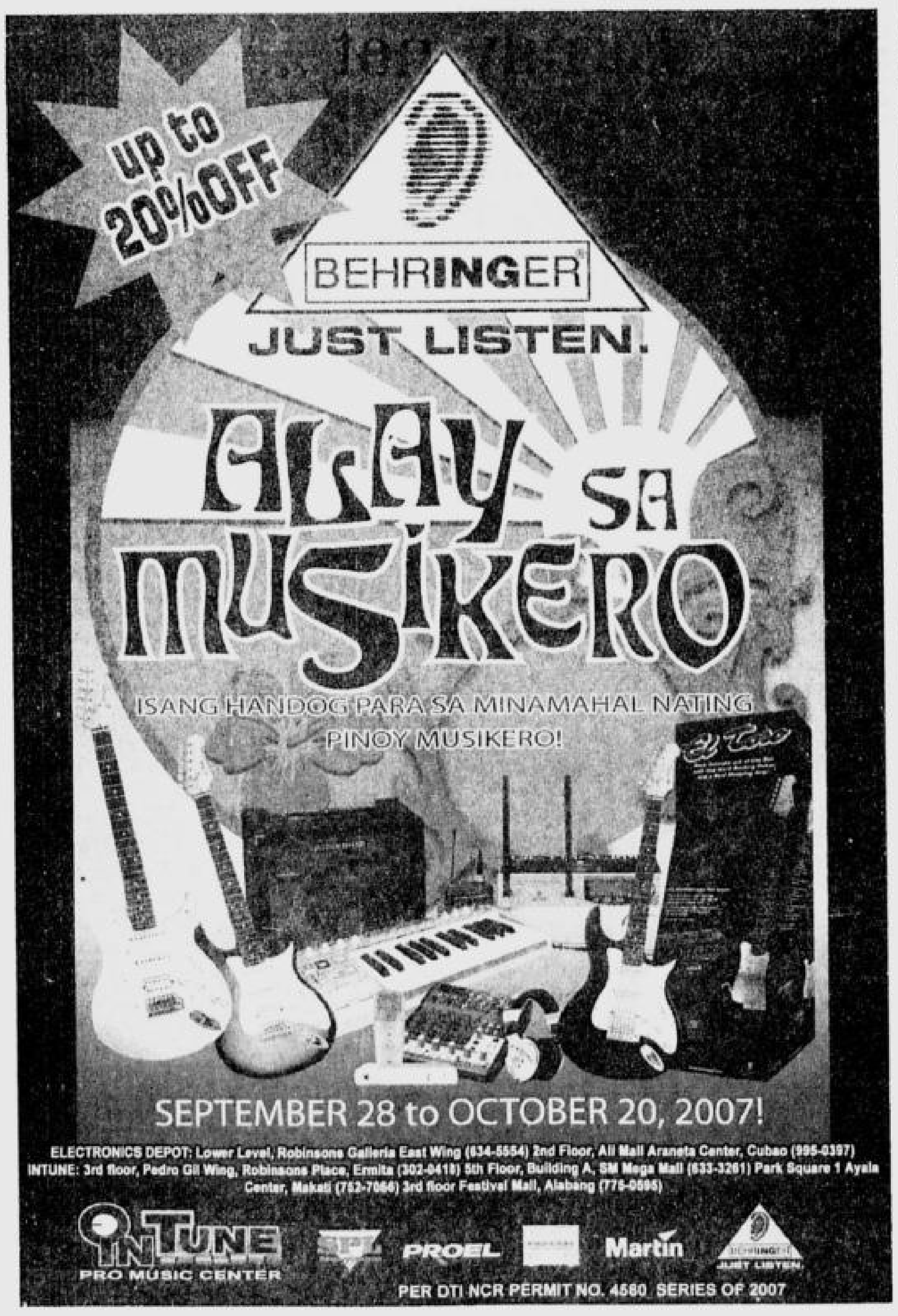

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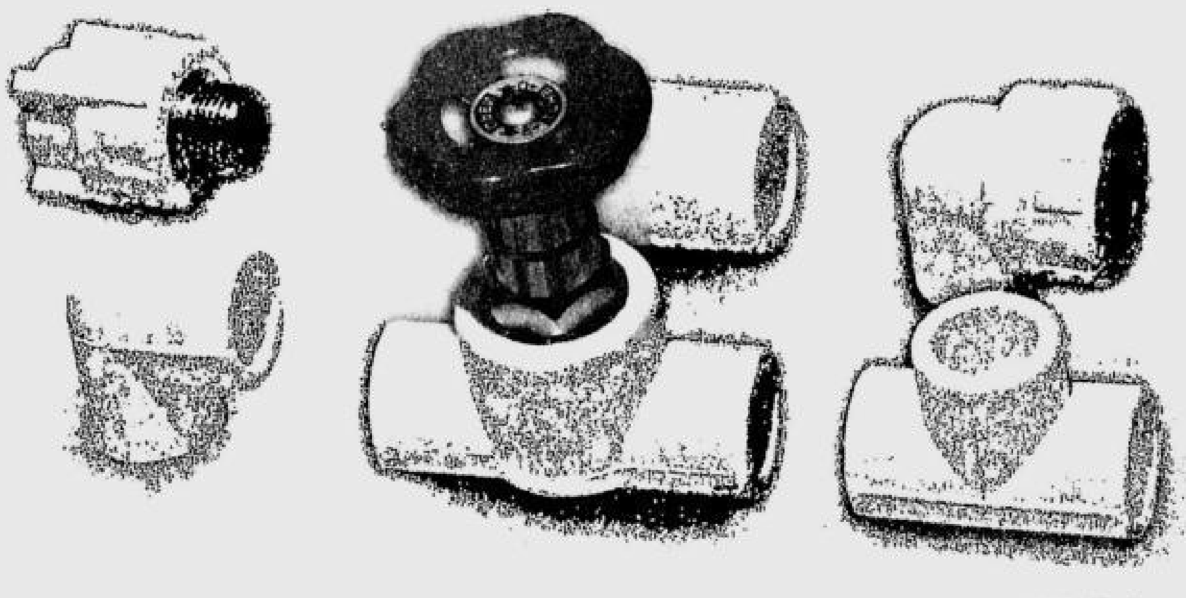

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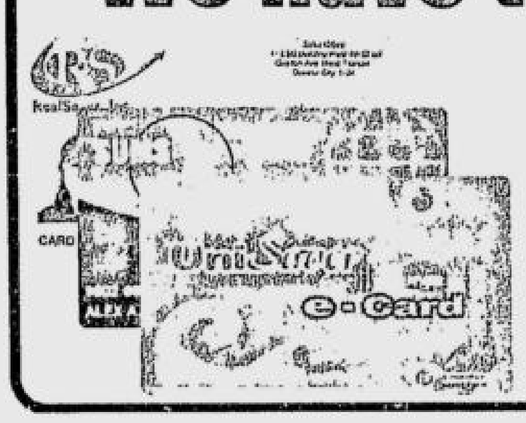

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New group launches fight vs bad debts

By Allison W. Lopez

CITING SEVERAL "ANOMALOUS LOAN agreements" entered into by the government, a new movement composed of civil society groups was launched yesterday to monitor the country's piling "illegal" debts.

Members of the People Against Illegitimate Debt (PAID) stressed that aside from the recently canceled National Broadband Network (NBN) project and the "temporarily suspended" Cyber Education project, many previous questionable transactions had already "drained the country's coffers and robbed the people of their rightful resources."

"We believe majority of the debts we are paying are illegitimate. However, our government continues to honor and pay for these debts to the great prejudice of the people," said Lidy Nacpil, vice president of Freedom from Debt Coalition, one of PAID's members.

Some of the alleged "illegitimate" debts, according to PAID, include the defunct Telepono sa Barangay project, Austrian Medical Waste project, the World Bank-funded Textbook project, the Chinese-funded North Luzon Railways project, the German-funded Philippine Merchant Maritime Academy Modernization Program, and the World Bank Small Coconut Farmers Development Program.

Nacpil said the illegitimate debts rose from transactions that were grossly disadvantageous to the government or due to financially flawed and antipeople development projects—from the "mothballed" Bataan Nuclear Power Plant to the controversial NBN contract.

Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop Oscar Cruz also condemned the illegitimate debts and said it "buried Filipinos deep in the quagmire of dishonor and shame."

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GMA orders review of Cyber project

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jerry E. Esplanada

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESterday ordered a review of the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project (CEP) in an apparent bid to put it back on track.

During the regular Cabinet meeting, Ms Arroyo directed the China Projects Oversight Panel headed by Trade Secretary Peter Favila "to ensure there will be no obstacle in the implementation of the very important cyber education for the benefit of millions of our students."

She said that the drive to develop infrastructure and encourage investments should not be derailed because of criticism.

Ms Arroyo has ordered the suspension of the CEP along with the National Broadband Network (NBN) project following allegations of bribery and overpricing on the NBN *(See related story Page A1)*. The two programs were to be carried out by China.

Consultations

Ms Arroyo said that the panel would consult with the Education Task Force headed by Fr. Ben Nebres to ensure that the needs of the education sector will be met.

The panel will also hold discussions with the Procurement Transparency Group and the Civil Society Organizations for Procurement Reform so that the project will be open and transparent, she said.

"The President was very clear in her statement. She instructed that this be studied very carefully by the task force on education headed by Father Nebres and the other agency so that all possible obstacles will be avoided," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Asked whether this meant the lifting of the suspension order on CEP, Bunye said: "What is important is that this project will be reviewed by the task force. The important question there is to determine whether there is really need for this project ... That means that down the line this may be implemented."

Ideal project

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus yesterday said that the CEP "could be modified, postponed or canceled under current circumstances."

"We have done our duty in the executive branch to recommend what we consider as an ideal project," Lapus told the INQUIRER.

"While we are thoroughly convinced about the importance and urgency of the project toward addressing crucial problems of the education sector, we recognize that for it to succeed, the project must be appreciated and accepted by the stakeholders," he said.

Lapus reiterated that the DepEd would not recommend the lifting of the suspension order on the CEP, but would "leave it to the better judgment of the President and the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda)."

Entire system to be deprived

Instead, the DepEd "will continue with its various (information technology) initiatives," he said. These include the use of IT to reach out to public schools in the remotest areas and train teachers and education supervisors to create and deliver content via cyberspace.

Lapus, however, lamented that the IT projects "will only be on a pilot scale."

"The entire education system will still be deprived," he noted.

The CEP aims to bridge the learning gap between urban and rural schools by using satellite technology to beam televised lectures to students and teachers in far-flung areas.

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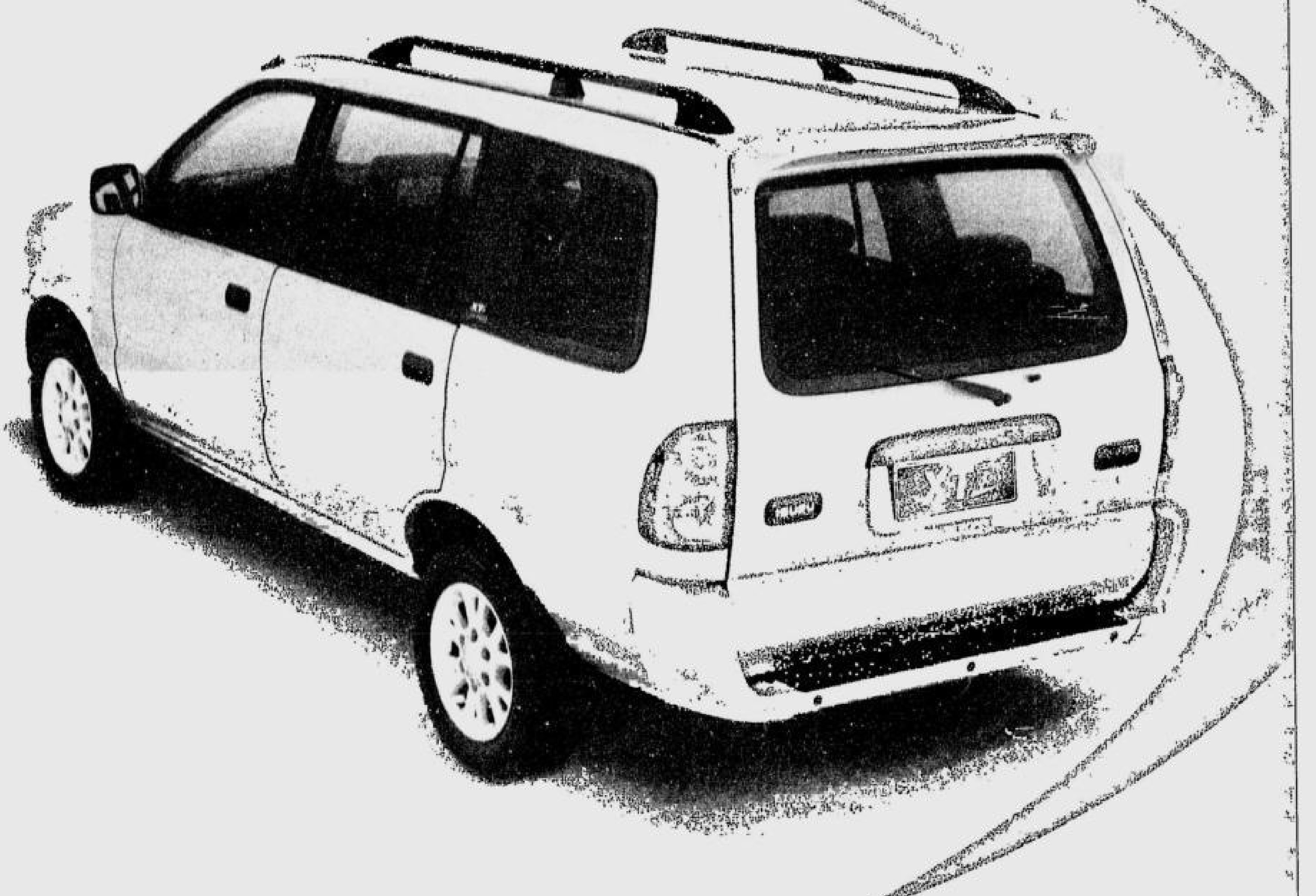

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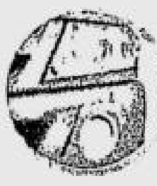

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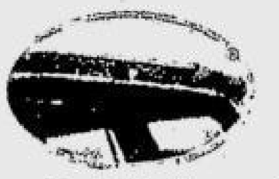

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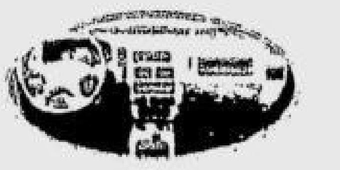

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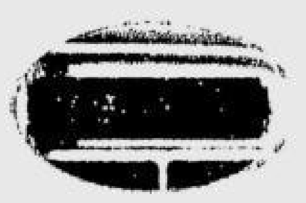

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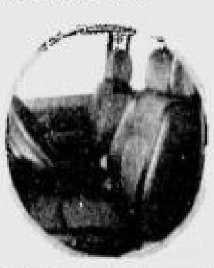

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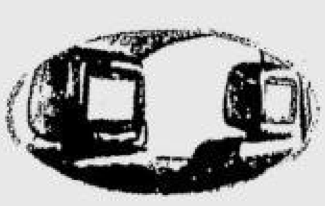

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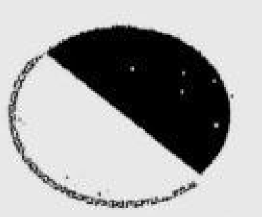

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OPINION

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Shields of wrongdoers

EDITORIAL

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS YESTERDAY AT THE House were interrupted around lunchtime when Rep. Crispin Beltran took the floor, to make a privilege speech. His topic was about being offered a bribe to sign on to the Pulido impeachment complaint. An accusing finger was pointed at Francis Ver, deputy secretary general of Kampi (and former chief of staff of the controversial Mark Jimenez), as the alleged peddler of the bribe. Kampi congressmen vigorously defended their party, and denied the bribery attempt with equal vigor.

Interpellating Beltran, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora echoed the general bemusement of all present that of all people, Beltran was the one approached; Rep. Salvador Escudero also weighed in. He rose, he said, because he loved the name (whether he meant the name of his son, Francis, or that of Ver, wasn't clear though). Escudero wondered if Ver wasn't acting as a lonesome cowboy, without the knowledge of anyone upstairs. After this, Beltran's privilege speech was referred to the proper committee.

Administration allies in the House had virtuously denied any complicity in the filing of the Pulido impeachment complaint. Like the Wack Wack meetings chronicled in the Senate, every aspect of it was apparently simply a coincidence. The uncanny similarity to the Marcoleta-endorsed Lozano complaint was just that: strange, but unrelated.

That is, until congressmen began to allege there had been efforts to bribe them so they would endorse the Pulido complaint (in a kind of bidding war—if Beltran is to be believed—that raised the stakes from P1 million in the morning to P2 million in the afternoon, as the hour of the actual filing drew near last Friday). Others were simply approached.

When Rep. Edgar San Luis finally did endorse the Pulido complaint, he was subjected to interpellation by Rep. Teodoro Locsin and Representative Zamora, who shredded the hapless congressman with the zest of a terrier and Persian cat tearing apart the same mouse. San Luis proved clueless, a patsy torn to shreds.

Over at the Senate, the unsinkable Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the Pulido complaint was obviously a Palace ploy. As she put it, "That complaint will ... immunize her (President Macapagal-Arroyo) from any impeachment attempt for one whole year. Then they will file again in 2008, and another in 2009. Effectively, they will not be able to impeach her."

It has been endlessly pointed out since 2005, that in the dog-eat-dog world of our national politics, the ultimate trump card of Speaker Jose de Venecia when it comes to the President is impeachment. The Pulido complaint took that card away from De Venecia. The Palace has escalated its confrontation with one of its key allies. The Speaker can kill the Pulido complaint, giving the President a year's breathing room. Or he can cause a more thorough complaint to be filed and transmitted together with Pulido's—a declaration of open war, which is not the Speaker's style.

Either way, the Palace has decided to force the Speaker's hand; this can only mean it intends to speed up the process of breaking Lakas-CMD's political legs, and turn Kampi into the dominant party of the administration.

The tactical interests of the President aside, what is taking place is a bold maneuver to regain political momentum lost during the Senate's ZTE-NBN investigations. It is also an effort to reduce impeachment to nothing more than what the Palace wants it to be: a numbers' game. Which impeachment was never meant to be.

Impeachment is an instrument of last resort, not a blunt club with which to beat back an angry citizenry or punish a rebellious ally. It is the only means the public can exercise the recall of the country's highest officials and constitutional officers. Impeachment being a political process, party affiliation undeniably plays a role in it, but it's not supposed to be determined solely by partisan scheming. That is why it is conducted in full view of the public, which can judge the motives of those proposing the prosecution or the defense of the chief executive.

Like Executive Order 464 and Administrative Order 197, the Lozano and Pulido complaints are a perversion of constitutional principles. They are clumsy shields, but nonetheless effective in that the law-abiding are stuck trying to smash them, as the administration wallows in its culture of impunity.

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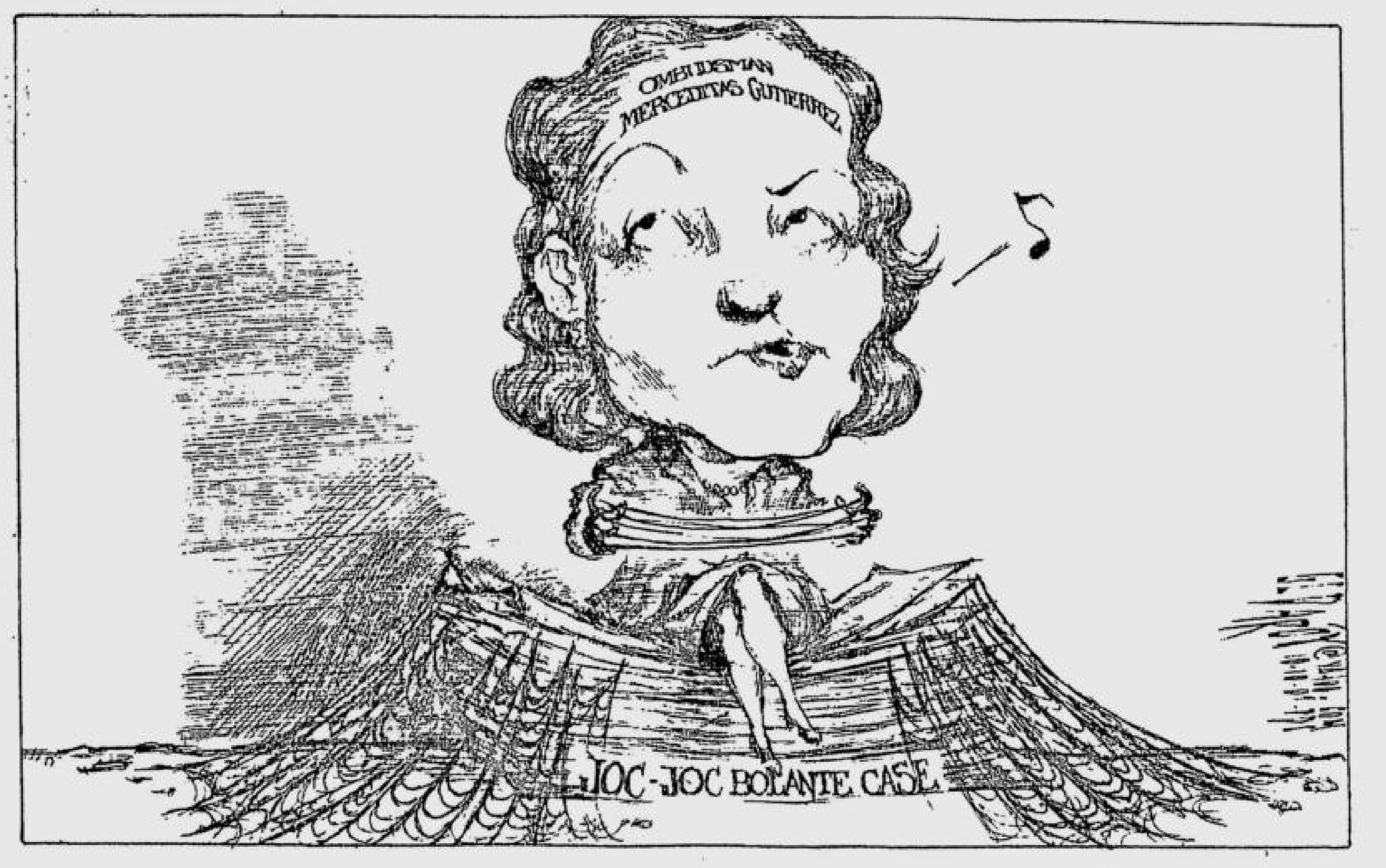

Malacañang hires L.I. Airs as troubleshooter

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MALACAÑANG HAS HIRED A NEW TROUBLESHOOTER. He sat at my table at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday and introduced himself and gave me his calling card. Larry Intel, manager, L. I. Air Services Co., the card said.

"What's L.I. Airs Co.?" I asked.

"It's a small airline with one World War II C-47," he replied.

"What does it do?"

"It flies fish from out-of-the-way places to Manila."

"So why are you now a Malacañang troubleshooter?"

"The plane crashed."

"Oh, sorry to hear that. What do you do as Palace troubleshooter?"

"I shoot down any trouble, such as bad publicity about President Macapagal-Arroyo and Malacañang."

"I see. But what's wrong with the Malacañang spokesmen and their assistants?"

"The people don't believe them anymore. The President thinks there should be somebody new. Somebody whose credibility is not yet all shot up."

"But why you? What's your qualification for the job?" I asked.

"I have many fish tales to tell," he answered.

"Fish tales? Where did you get them?"

"During the long flights, the cargo handler told me many fish stories."

"You were hired mainly because of your fish stories?"

"Yes. And some of them are really big ones."

"And why are you here today?"

"To tell you that the Senate investigation of the NBN deal is a waste of time and should be terminated immediately."

"Why?"

"Because those allegations of bribery were merely products of bad accent and diction and poor hearing. If the speakers had spoken more clearly and the listeners had better hearing senses, none of this would have happened."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean former Neda Director General Romulo Neri heard wrong. Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos didn't say, 'Sec, *may 200 ka dito*.' And he was not talking to Neri."

"Oh? Who was he talking to and what did he say?"

"He was talking to the umbrella girl behind Neri. He told her: 'Sex? May 200 ka dito.'"

"But what about the First Gentleman pointing a finger at Joey de Venecia and telling him to 'back off'?"

"He only pointed a dirty finger at Joey and told him to 'jack off!'" Larry said with a straight face.

"That's a dirty thing to do," I said.

"A dirty gesture, yes, but it's neither bribery nor corruption. He can be charged with slander but not with plunder, *di ba*? So slander *na lang ikaso nila*, not plunder. Anyway, they sound the same."

"What about Ricky Razon threatening Neri?"

"Neri said that Razon, when told that another terminal would operate at the North Harbor, warned him 'Over my dead body.' That's not what happened."

"And what did happen?"

"According to Ricky, this is what he said: When Neri told him that Reghis Romero would operate Harbor Center, Ricky said: 'Oh, he's my dear buddy!' That's not a threat."

"But why did GMA make a complete turnaround and muzzle his Cabinet members after earlier telling all of them, even those who were not subpoenaed, to attend the Senate investigation?" I asked Larry.

"Wrong again," Larry said. "She didn't muzzle them. Her order was: 'Don't say anything with numbers in them.'"

"Numbers?"

"You know, 10, 100, 1 million, 16 billion or other numbers."

"Why is the President allergic to numbers?"

"She has never been good in arithmetic. Numbers confuse her."

"That reminds me, the Cyber Education Project will cost P16 billion, won't it?"

"The President doesn't want to think of the numbers. Billion is beyond the reach of her brain."

"And yet we are borrowing funds in the tens of billions of pesos. Does the government know how much money our children will have to pay?"

"Our present officials don't even want to think about them. All those zeros make them dizzy."

"How does President Arroyo propose to pay them?"

"She won't."

"Who's going to pay them, then?"

"The presidents who will come after her."

"The President roams the world inviting investors to invest in the Philippines."

"Yes, she works very hard. Just the other day she came back from India with $2 billion in investments. Aren't we glad she is traveling all over the world to look for investments?" Larry asked.

"But why is she allowing the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to invest P63 billion of their members' money overseas? Why not invest that money here?"

"I can't answer that. I troubleshoot for Malacañang, not for SSS and GSIS. Goodbye."

Victories

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EVERY TIME MANNY PACQUIAO FIGHTS, I have the most ambivalent feelings toward it. At the back of my mind, I know a victory—which is more than likely, given the quality of his opponents since Juan Manuel Marquez—is bound to have its deleterious side too. The Arroyo administration will rush to claim his victory as its own—which is more than likely too, given Pacquiao's ardent tributes to his patrons there, notably Chavit Singson and Mike Arroyo—and say the most unctuous things about it being a force for national unity.

The moment Pacquiao enters the ring, however, I lose all these misgivings and like any Filipino barber, or cop, or *istambay* in our neighborhood store, I root for him lustily. It's an identity thing. You're Filipino you can't help but feel that way for your own, as the Mexicans must have done too for their hapless Marco Antonio Barrera.

Last Sunday was no exception. I had my ambivalent feelings again until I switched on the TV. I lost them completely as soon as the first strains of "Lupang Hinirang" lifted in the air. Like any other Filipino, I thrilled to every flurry of exchanges and wanted to see Pacquiao floor Barrera, but Barrera, as a friend of mine texted me later, seemed determined only to pursue an alternative career in track-and-field.

All my ambivalence came rushing back before the last echo of the decision faded away and the first wave of congratulatory messages from Malacañang came tumbling Pacquiao's way. It was enough to make my brain formulate unwillingly the thought that the more Pacquiao wins, the longer this regime will last.

Next day, I read our front-page story about Pacquiao's victory giving relief to a nation weary of scandals. Even rebels and soldiers apparently put down their guns, and patients at hospitals jumped up and down while in dextrose and forgot their pain for a while. Manny Villar gushed: "Manny knew our people are hurting from political bickering. Issues that preoccupied the public for the past few months are reduced now to non-entity (sic). His feat succeeded in uniting a divided nation and providing our people a needed respite from politics."

I can sympathize with a weary people getting a respite from their weariness in whatever way they can. I myself get weary of the news; I seek a respite from it all the time by reading books, watching movies and listening to music. I don't do those things, I'll go nuts. Which I suspect is what's happening to some friends of mine who are preoccupied all their waking hours with this country's political developments. That's a surefire recipe for ending up in Benjamin Abalos' territory's—Mandaluyong's—most famous institution. But it's one thing to seek, or get, a respite from "politics" through the thrill offered by a Pacquiao fight or a "Die Hard" movie, it's another to find in it the balm for wound, the cure for the disease, the triumph over misery and death.

That's what makes Villar's remarks, which echo government's sentiments, completely inane. To begin with, our weariness does not come from being ravaged by a natural calamity, like unending rain or drought, or the superstorm that befell Albay last year. It does not come from being laid prostrate by a plague that has spread faster than Pacquiao's fists. Those things we can only blame heaven for, and fall on our knees thankfully when the clouds break in the horizon or when the *perya* comes along to divert us. Our weariness comes from being ravaged by an unnatural calamity, such as the one that assailed this country many years ago, when the country fell in the clutches of a dictatorship. It comes from being laid prostrate by a disease in the form of a culture of impunity and death. Those things we need not beg heaven to give us a respite from, or thank it when something like a Pacquiao victory comes along. Those things we need only do something about.

What we need is not a respite from politics, it is a respite from tyranny. Indeed, what we need is not a respite from it, it is to be rid of it. That doesn't lie in God's hands, it lies in ours. That doesn't lie in Pacquiao's fists, it lies in ours.

What an idiotic thing to say, that Pacquiao knew we were hurting from "political bickering" for some time now and sought to soothe it. The idiocy has nothing to do with what Pacquiao knows, though that seems confined only to the odds in the tables of Las Vegas. It has to do with calling the epic scandals that have sent this country staggering to the ropes "political bickering." Villar may be engaging in it, but not so the rest of the country. Or at least not some of his fellows in the Senate.

Ferreting out the authors of these scandals is not bickering, it is prosecuting. Punishing the authors of these scandals is not bickering, it is seeking justice. The day you start being confused about those things is, well, the day you retire from getting punch drunk once too often.

Why on earth should we be happy that Pacquiao's victory has succeeded in making us forget the scandals or indeed in uniting a divided nation? If that were true, then that victory should be something to rue rather than celebrate. Those scandals do not need to be forgotten, they need to be resolved—by jailing the people responsible for them. And as I've said again and again, there's unity and there's unity: A mob is united too, for the purpose of wreaking mayhem, such as lynching a Negro. We are a divided nation because our leaders are crooks and we are suffering from their robbery. Why in Pacquiao's name would we want to be united with them? Why in God's name would we not want to be separated from them, preferably by relocating them to Muntinlupa?

We do that, and we will truly give rest to the weary. We do that, and we can truly spill out into the streets and shout in blissful victory.

Confidentiality of information

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AN EPIC COLLISION BETWEEN THE SENATE and the press over the issue of compelling journalists to disclose their sources of information obtained in confidence appears inevitable. The conflict is charged with explosive elements that could fracture the Senate because at least four unnamed senators are suspected as the sources.

The confrontation was set in motion on Oct. 2, when Sen. Joker Arroyo tabled Senate Resolution 165 directing the Senate to investigate the leak to the press of the secret proceedings of its executive session on Sept. 26, in which Arroyo was reported by the INQUIRER to have intervened to bring in a Cabinet member to act as counsel for Romulo Neri, former socioeconomic planning secretary, who was "on the verge" of revealing what he knew about the broadband deal with China's ZTE corporation.

Arroyo asked the Senate to investigate "any or all senators, and non-senators who were present during the executive session" and to impose sanctions, for violating Senate Rule 47 which considers executive sessions as confidential proceedings. The resolution also held out expulsion as a sanction for senators violating this rule.

Arroyo threatened to hold INQUIRER reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana in contempt of the Senate if she would not reveal her sources inside the executive session for the information that served as the basis for her offending story.

Arroyo accused the INQUIRER of "being at the forefront of the campaign to compel Neri to reveal (his) conversations (with President Macapagal-Arroyo) on the ZTE deal" and of "tabloid journalism." At the same time, he raked fire at his Senate colleagues, when he asked for an investigation of senators who leaked the story that suggested that he had intervened to bail out Neri in an attempt to cover up the President's involvement in the deal.

Although nothing explosive was revealed by Neri in the executive session, Senate Resolution 165 raises three issues relating to confidentiality of information: first, the confidentially of information obtained by reporters on off-the-record basis; secondly, the confidentiality of proceedings of the executive session; and thirdly, the executive privilege of communication between the President and her officials, which Neri invoked in refusing to divulge details of the President's reactions to attempts to bribe him with P200 million to approve the ZTE deal.

The issues of executive privilege and the confidentiality of the proceedings of the executive session tend to suppress information on scandalous government transactions, of which the public has a right to know. By contrast, Senate Resolution 165 seeks to flush out the sources of confidential information that casts Arroyo in a bad light. The squeeze on Javellana is not her problem alone. It is a problem for every journalist digging out the facts of venalities which officials, ranging from President Arroyo to Senator Arroyo, are desperately trying to cover up.

The threat of Senate Resolution 165 to compel Javellana to betray her sources is a threat to any journalist worth his or her salt. This explains why the National Press Club is up in arms against the threatened sanctions.

The sinister aspect of the resolution is the threat of Arroyo, backed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and some other senators, to repeal or amend Republic Act 53, the so-called Sotto Law or Press Freedom Law. This law states that editors, publishers and journalists cannot be compelled to reveal the source of news reports given to them in confidence unless demanded by "the security of the State."

The team-up of Arroyo and Enrile is an improbable one. Enrile's hostility to a free press has a long history. That he backs the sanctions on reporters refusing to reveal their sources is not surprising. He has not yet erased his notoriety as Ferdinand Marcos' architect and administrator of martial law. Marcos' diaries reveal Enrile as a principal in preparing the blacklist of the regime's political enemies and journalists to be arrested upon the proclamation of martial law.

Arroyo, a one-time freedom fighter and now an ally of the President, says the INQUIRER "cannot maintain the moral high ground if it will not allow (its reporter) to reveal her sources." The morality of this refusal to betray confidential sources flows from a transcendental issue involved in protecting these sources: the right of the public to be informed on all the relevant facts surrounding public transactions.

Senate Resolution 165 attacks the lifeline of the confidentiality of off-the-record information. Once reporters betray the confidentiality, that information lifeline built on trust is severed, and nobody will trust journalists anymore with secrets about wrongdoing that officials keep away from the sovereign public. Once this trust is betrayed, nobody will talk for fear of reprisal and the springs of information which open the path toward journalistic investigation will dry up.

Arroyo claims the report which he brands as peddling "falsehoods" has compromised the "sanctity of the executive session," which was ironically violated not by the reporter but by senators themselves.

Senate Resolution 165 says the executive session is "a vital institutional instrument of the Senate (that) cannot be sacrificed to promote sensational journalism." But since when did Arroyo and the senators become arbiters of journalism? The sanctity of Rule 47 is less important than the fundamental principle of protecting the press against arbitrary compulsion to betray news sources.

Online anger

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DESPITE WIDESPREAD ANGER AND SORROW around the world over the bloody put-down of the peaceful protests in Burma, as well as the killings of civilians by private armed guards hired by the firm Blackwater in Iraq, petitions covering these concerns were still overshadowed by a single issue: the insult delivered against Filipino doctors by a character on "Desperate Housewives."

As an article in yesterday's issue pointed out, the online petition calling for an apology and other measures in the wake of the perceived "racial slur" uttered by Teri Hatcher's character gathered a total of 84, 865 signatories. The petition "topped the list of 27 online petitions" currently circulating on the Internet, said contributor Rita Gerona-Adkins.

I'm not sure what this signifies about Filipino-Americans, Filipinos and our friends and allies. That we're extraordinarily computer savvy? That we're extremely sensitive to racial put-downs, even when couched as humor? Or perhaps that we compose among the most avid "Desperate Housewives" viewers? (Gerona-Adkins writes that the Sept. 30 season premiere, which contained the offensive line, netted some 19 million viewers, the series' "largest-ever audience.")

For Leah Navarro, who has found a new calling as the spokesperson of the Black & White Movement, the response to the show has been impressive. "I even heard that some Fil-Americans have demanded that ABC produce a show on how to teach politically correct behavior to Americans," she writes in an e-group to which we both belong.

But if the outrage of Filipinos worldwide was astounding, Navarro says she wonders why we don't react as quickly and vehemently to other issues. "How I wish that Filipinos everywhere would react with the same speed and righteous anger over burning issues over here, like anomalous deals by government that'll keep your great-grandkids in hock, cheating in the elections, extrajudicial killings, unconstitutional directives by an increasingly arrogant administration, to name only a few."

In resignation, she reflects: "Sigh. Guess all of those issues aren't as sexy as Teri Hatcher's mouth."

* * *

GETTING little media attention was the filing last month (Sept. 5) by over a hundred students of different ages of an intervention to the court case brought by Fortune Tobacco against the Inter-Agency Committee on Tobacco (IACT).

In their filing, the student-intervenors, aged 13 to 25, stated that their interests would be adversely affected by an interpretation of the clear provision of Section 22 of RA 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

The pleadings signed by counsel Theodore O. Te declared the students' concern that if the outdoor advertising ban is interpreted by the courts in such a manner that will allow billboards and signages atop retail stores, despite the provision which allows leaflets, posters, and other advertising materials inside the premises of point-of-sale retail establishments, the youth will not be protected from the lure of tobacco advertising, especially since these establishments, commonly known as *sari-sari* stores, can be found everywhere.

Added Te: "In any event, the IACT itself is composed of bodies which either do not have any definite opinion, or whose interests favor that of the Petitioner [Fortune] and other tobacco corporations with interests similar to each other considering that they come from the same industry. There is a distinct imbalance in favor of the interpretation of the Petitioner."

* * *

"THUS," the pleading stated, "it is respectfully submitted that the movants [students] must be allowed to intervene in order to represent ordinary Filipino citizens, and particularly the citizens who are the target market of these companies in their tobacco advertisements and sponsorships, and thus safeguard the public right and interest involved in the matter in litigation in this declaratory relief case."

For her part, 22-year-old student Jessica Hilado of Bacolod City said, "Smoking is not cool, and we don't want to be misled by tobacco companies." She is one of 102 students who filed suit against the tobacco company.

Hilado's fellow intervenor, Diana Trivino, 24, whose previous complaint lodged with the IACT regarding the addictive nature of cigarettes remains unresolved, said: "We want all tobacco advertising to be taken away from our lives, including store billboards and signages. These advertisements are meant to entice people to start the habit of smoking, and are primarily aimed at teenagers and young adults."

She further pointed out that the packaging of tobacco products has undergone changes which can only be seen as an attempt to engage the youth, entice them to buy their own packs, and take up the habit. "Tobacco companies, for example, have produced flavored cigarettes, and have provided colorful and catchy designs," the law student said.

* * *

STUDIES show that 90 percent of smokers began smoking when they were minors, and that tobacco advertising appeals to the young. As a result of tobacco litigation in the United States, the tobacco industry was ordered to release their internal documents; a number of these documents support the fact that the industry has been targeting "young adults" and teenagers as their replacement customers for those who quit or die of tobacco-related deaths.

Under Section 22 of RA 9211, all forms of outdoor advertising are prohibited by July 2007, and no posters, leaflets, or similar outdoor advertising materials should be posted except inside the premises of point-of-sale retail establishments.

More than passion

COMMENTARY

Diana Jean V. Moraleda
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

WE ARE BOMBARDED ON THE INTERNET BY advertisements for medications that will enlarge one's penis. Audiovisual and print media are replete with sexual overtones, including even advertisements for butter. Magazines catering to male readers offer seductive images, and sex tips sell like hot cakes among young females. The Internet has accelerated the proliferation of sexual content with virtually no regulation on pornographic material.

In this situation, married couples should be models of genuine, self-giving and redemptive marital love. Christianity teaches that marital love is fully human. Man and woman should not marry out of natural instinct or emotional drive. Marriage is an act of free will where "husband and wife become in a way one heart and one soul, and together attain their human fulfillment," according to Pope Paul VI's "Humanae Vitae." For marriage to survive and grow, love must be total. Man and woman love not for what they can receive but for the partner's sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of oneself.

Marriage, more than just being a human sociological institution, also represents the union of Christ and His Church. Marital love must therefore be faithful and exclusive, mirroring God's fidelity to his people. Although difficult, this is not impossible.

Lastly, marital love is fecund. Marriage doesn't end in the union of husband and wife but must also lead to the procreation and education of children who are the "supreme gift of marriage." The marriage act is sacred, a participation with God in the creation of a new human person.

These teachings seem very academic. However, it is in the exercise of responsible parenthood that couples are able to live out this love. Responsible parenthood means an awareness of, and respect for, the proper functions of biological processes of the body. Human reason and will must exert control over innate drives and emotions. Responsible parenthood also pertains to the decision to have more children or, for serious reasons and with due respect to moral precepts, the decision not to have additional children for either a certain or an indefinite period of time.

Medical science, and not only Church doctrine, has helped Christian couples in the exercise of responsible parenthood. Natural Family Planning (NFP), which critics mockingly call "Roman Roulette," has evolved from being a guessing game of female fertility into a highly effective and scientific way to predict these periods.

Modern NFP helps couples plan their families through the identification of the woman's fertile and infertile periods. If the couple's intention is not to have any children at the moment, the couple abstains from sexual intercourse when the woman is fertile. If the intention is to have children, the couple has intercourse during fertile times.

Users like NFP because it has no side effects and little or no cost. Aside from these, users say they prefer to use NFP because it is a way of life that teaches husband and wife to communicate and be more considerate toward each other. Communication between spouses should extend beyond mere discussion of pleasurable sexual positions. Communication, at its most effective, should foster openness, respect and kindness and selflessness between the couple.

During fertile times, couples also enhance their creativity by thinking of alternative ways to enjoy each other. A couple who has been using NFP for 13 years has said, "Married life is not all about sex. There are a lot of things that a married couple can do together that express their love for each other." This couple enjoys gardening, cooking, or even taking care of their grandchildren together. They watch basketball games and telenovelas together, and truly enjoy them.

To some non-users, the biggest bane of NFP is the required period of abstinence from sex (6 to 12 days). Surely, it is easier to just pop a pill or use a condom so that sex can be had at any given time. What these couples do not realize is that by making sex available all the time through contraceptives, marital love fails to be total, fecund and fully human. The wife becomes a sex object as she and her husband focus more frequently on their own needs, render themselves infertile to the gift of life, put themselves at the mercy of physical desires and make themselves unfree to decide when and how to show each other love.

NFP users attest that indeed absence (of sex) makes the heart grow fonder. Practicing NFP realigns how couples view sex. After a few days of abstinence, they say, marital intercourse becomes more pleasurable and more meaningful. Indeed, for a woman, there is extra wonder in knowing that when your spouse makes love to you, it is after his careful consideration of your joint fertility plans and your fertility status. It is gratifying to know that your husband loves you enough to respect your decisions as a couple.

With better awareness of the body and bodily functions, an experience in communication that upholds the values of self-restraint, chastity, creativity, goal-setting and respect, and a better grasp of the reality of marital love, parents who practice NFP should have little difficulty reaching out to their children and guiding them in their journey toward adulthood and the pressures that come with it. A child who grows up in an environment that has the right mix of values will naturally tend to be more self-aware and respectful of the dignity of others.

Penmanship

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I LOVE NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF TEACHING: PREPAring for classes, the class discussions, even correcting exams and figuring out what students have learned (or "mislearned.") Yes, teaching is wonderful except for one thing: deciphering students' handwriting. It has gotten to the point where I do a brief thank you note on the exam paper for students who write legibly.

I've been teaching for more than 20 years, mostly here at home but with occasional guest lecturing in other countries and I can say with certainty that handwriting has deteriorated in many parts of the world. It applies not just to cultures using an alphabet but also to those that use logographs, for example Chinese.

What has happened through the years? We could blame it on the shift to typewriters and computers but to understand what's going on, we have to look at handwriting as part of culture, a system which is taught and which carries certain values.

Styles

For older people, I can usually tell if they learned to write in the United States, Britain, France, Germany or the Netherlands. I can also tell if a note in English was written out by a Chinese or Japanese person, because they are taught to conform to particular ways of writing out the scripts.

My maternal uncles all attended De La Salle in the pre-war era where they were taught to write in what I think was called Spencerian script. One of them, Uncle Lawrence, mastered the script most thoroughly, complete with its flourishes and flairs which all gave his notes a sense of grandness, like you see in old official documents. My mother and her sisters went to St. Scholastica's, which didn't impose a particular script. But a neighboring girls' school, Assumption, still passes on a unique handwriting style, compact and angular, which occasionally crops up even among my young students at UP.

I belong to an older generation where we had penmanship classes for both Chinese and English with quite strict guidelines. For Chinese, we had workbooks from which we would copy each character, repeating each word several times, with a prescribed sequence for each stroke.

For English, we also had guides in the form of black cardboard scripts looking a bit like music notation sheets except that instead of five lines you had three. The cardboard scripts showed how you were supposed to write each letter of the alphabet, from A to Z, both capital and small letters. The lines were actually rulers, telling you how far you could bring each stroke of a letter. All small letters, for example, were supposed to go up only half of a capital letter.

Penmanship wasn't just learning to write; it was a way of disciplining students. The fine scripts that came from the United States are no longer in use in American schools, part of a change in teaching philosophies, of allowing students to develop their own individual styles. I couldn't agree more with this liberal approach, but then the computers came in and people used less and less of the pen. The result isn't just bad handwriting but a change in thinking processes.

Looking back, I know I've been affected too by these changes. I fell in love with the typewriter in high school, and used it whenever I could, all through college. But there were still many opportunities for writing by hand. Photocopying was still expensive so we still went to the library and took notes by hand—a process which I'm trying to encourage with my students because this handwriting process allows you to first read through the materials and then pick out passages that are important. Copying the passages also means processing them mentally. They tend to stick better in your head when you do this.

After photocopying and personal computers became affordable, the pen became trivial, a tool for scribbling quick notes, for signing checks and credit card slips and, for administrators like myself, approving endless documents. We're losing so much as we abandon the fine art of handwriting. Foremost, since we can't write legibly, then the purpose of handwriting—communicating our ideas—is defeated. Students need to be reminded about this—if they can't write clearly, then the teacher doesn't have a sense that they've learned anything.

Thinking, writing

But there's more to handwriting than legibility. Handwriting allows us to link the mind with the hand. It's a linkage that came about as part of our evolution. For example, our ancestors didn't just make tools mechanically. Tool-making involved planning, designing and concentration. There's something similar with the way we learn about the sciences and the arts. By writing out what we see, we process the world and reflect on it.

So, do I write my columns by hand? Only occasionally because it is certainly faster to use a computer. But I know, too, it is important to still use pen and paper from time to time.

A rekindled interest in handwriting came about after I began to meditate. In Chinese Chan and Japanese Zen, calligraphy is considered part of meditation. In the Zen spirit, you flow with the writing, especially when a brush is used. But I've found even with a ballpen, writing out the alphabet, there's a certain calmness that takes over as your hand moves up and down each letter, each word. If you're serious about going back to fine penmanship, take a first step with fountain pens and buy one which allows you to draw up the ink from a bottle.

I've found myself more conscious as well looking at other people's handwriting. I'm not sold on graphology, which claims you can analyze a person's character from his or her handwriting, but I do believe handwriting tells us something about the person who is writing, their diligence, for example, and attention to detail. With faculty members, I find myself pausing when I look at their time cards, where we're required to write, by hand, that "I certify, upon my hand, that I have rendered full service for the month of. . ." and sometimes it saddens me to see statements scribbled so badly that it reveals how teaching has become a mere task, rather than a vocation, for the one filling out the card.

Students should know, too, that bad handwriting may suggest a lack of respect for the teacher, individualism gone awry: "I don't care if my handwriting's bad . . . you figure it out." The strong Filipino term "*binabastos*" comes to my mind.

I sometimes pick up old photographs and postcards in antique shops, many with handwritten dedications at the back. The dedications interest me, reminding me of how people used to write with a finer hand, regardless of their class.

I think, too, people used to have a better appreciation of the power of handwriting. "*Katunayan ng ating pagcacapitbahay at dico paglimot*," one dedication reads, the handwriting telling us that the male sender, with a fine hand, was pouring out what was in his heart, hopeful the recipient, a woman, would cherish the memories of their being neighbors in a special way.

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ROTC restoration opposed

LETTERS

THE DECREASING NUMBER OF STUDENTS that enroll in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program has prompted renewed efforts to once again make it mandatory. House Bill 309, seeking to repeal Republic Act 9163 (NSTP Act of 2001), has been filed before the House Committee on National Defense by Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas—a move hailed by no less than Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro.

What Teodoro fails to recognize is the fact that we students are expressing our opposition to the ROTC by preferring to enroll in its alternatives, such as the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) under the National Service Training Program (NSTP). Gullas filed a bill without even consulting a key stakeholder in the issue, which is us, the students.

Although not yet perfect—which is understandable considering that it has been institutionalized less than a decade ago—the CWTS has taught us more and has made us more productive citizens than we possibly could ever have been, had we chosen the ROTC program instead. We prefer to teach poor children or build houses for the homeless than do push-ups and march around campus. The CWTS has also exposed us to the harsh realities and persistent problems that plague our fellow Filipinos— massive poverty, inaccessible education, social injustice.

We ask, what can we learn from the ROTC? It only teaches us the use of violence against our classmates. It claims to instill "discipline," but that discipline merely stems from fear. It makes students docile, subservient, even uncritical—consider the ROTC dogma, "Obey first before you complain." We also have confirmed reports that the ROTC program is being used by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to recruit students to its Student Intelligence Network, which spies on the members and activities of progressive and nationalist groups.

The government, hell-bent on requiring us to enroll in the ROTC and forcing us to undergo public humiliation, excessive physical punishment and other characteristics that have defined the ROTC program, seems to have forgotten that there was once a Mark Chua who died mercilessly at the hands of his officers for exposing widespread corruption in his university's ROTC program. We do not want another Mark Chua.

Teodoro claims that the decreasing number of reserve officers in the country is cause for alarm, saying it has "serious ramifications in assuring our national security and stability." But we believe otherwise. We do not want to become "cannon fodders" in the unjust wars being waged by our government against the people. We do not want to become part of an establishment that is being used by the government to spy on organizations, the members of which are our classmates and friends. We do not want to be reserve officers of a military that is being used to claim the lives of activists and civilians whose only crime is to fight for their rights.

If the government is going to push through with the aforementioned proposal, we students pledge to oppose it with the same, if not greater force, than that used in 2001 to abolish the ROTC.

—VENCER CRISOSTOMO,
national chair,
League of Filipino Students,
lfsphilippines@yahoo.com

Sept. 21 more than a hundred years ago

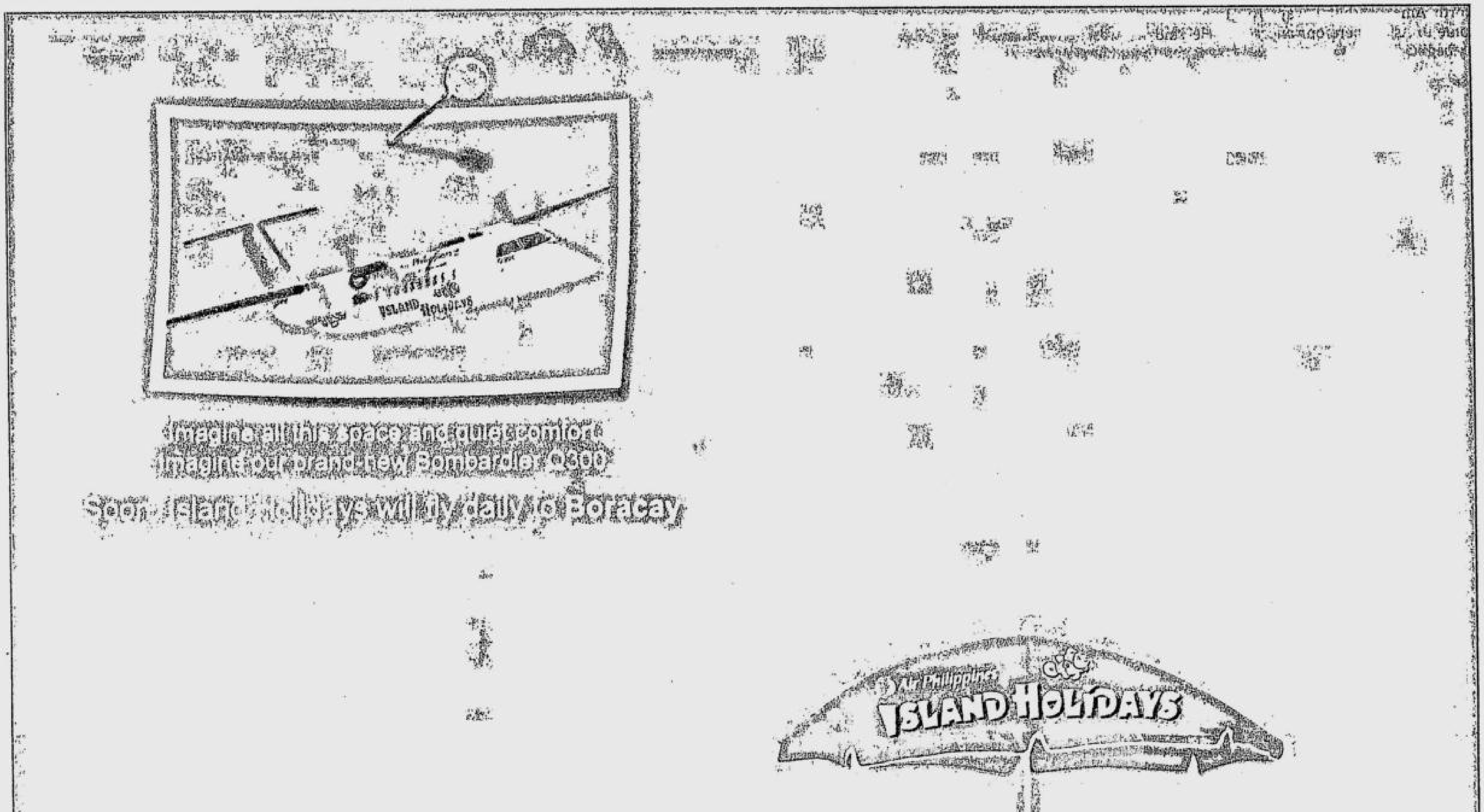
SEPT. 21, 1972 IS A RED-LETTER DAY IN Philippine history. On that day, then President Ferdinand Marcos signed the document now known as Proclamation 1081 declaring martial law.

Yet, very few Filipinos know that more than a hundred years ago, or on Sept. 21, 1869, to be exact, the country was witness to another historic event. It was when the new Spanish Constitution was proclaimed in Manila, guaranteeing liberal policies for the Filipinos. At that time, it was a "shocking news" because of the oppressive rule of previous governors in the country.

To celebrate the significant event, the Filipinos joined hands with the Spanish liberals headed by the new Governor-General Don Carlos Maria de la Torre, and joyously staged a mammoth torch parade in the city that night. The affair was made colorful with the use of multi-colored lanterns, banners and music. The participants and revellers wore red ties to symbolize liberty. Historians record the event as the joyous "Liberty Parade."

According to historian Gregorio F. Zaide, De la Torre was a liberal administrator with wise and liberal policies focused on the progress and happiness of the Filipinos. Unfortunately, due to history's twist, the provisional Republic of Spain came abruptly to an end in 1870. Monarchy was restored and the brief era of De la Torre and his liberal policies came to an end.

—LEON S. DEL ROSARIO,
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite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Local carvers learn from Maori artist

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

GUESTS EXPECTED a physique like a member of the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team with spiral tattoos all over his body which he flaunts while doing the *haka* (Maori dance).

James Rickard was wearing black all right, but his shirt read: "Genius by Birth, Lazy by Choice."

He sang a gentle Maori chant to welcome visitors. He has no tattoo.

"I don't want to be like a foreigner," he said at the woodcarving workshop of the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas) in Baguio City last week.

All that was fearsome in him was his insistence in protecting the Maori culture from globalization.

"Don't wait for globalization to come to your backyard. Meet it at your own terms, your own price, and at your own time," he told his audience, which consisted mostly of woodcarvers from Baguio's Asin village.

Rickard has been a master Maori carver for the past 34 years and has been teaching at the Te Puia Wananga Whakairo (woodcarving school). He has been to Paete, Laguna, and Asin, learning from carvers there and teaching them.

"Some of us have gone to North America, but I want to come to Asia where our ancestry begins," he said.

No to commercialism

He said Filipino carvers should create more work from their culture and avoid doing mass-market commercial products.

"Before you work, you should empty your mind of images you get from TV and other [global agents] and get back to the essence of your culture. Your sole focus should be within your cultural zone. Most find it hard. It's not," he said.

JAMES Rickard, a master Maori woodcarver, says Filipino carvers should create pieces from their culture and avoid mass-market commercial products.

ELMER KRISTIAN DALUGOY

"Your piece of carving has to be history," he said.

He said the *whakairo* (art of carving) had been revered and their carvings, composed mostly of wood panels, canoes, battle axes, masks and figures, were sought after in the world market because of their protection.

"The secret is in the isolation," he said.

He said he was a reluctant teenager when he joined the woodcarving school. It takes three years just to learn the basic patterns and techniques.

Right now, the school has only 12 students. Only Maori men are allowed to be carvers.

Tattooing

Rickard said their art of tattooing was one art that allowed globalization to get in the way. Most of their traditional tattoo artists are abroad, tattooing foreigners who have no inkling what the symbols mean, he said.

Most Maori men do not even have tattoos because they consider them an honor that must be earned, he said.

He said government assistance had been crucial in allowing them to perpetuate their culture through arts and crafts. Legislation has enabled them to build their traditional schools and museums.

The New Zealand government allots almost $25 million a year for the preservation of the Maori culture, Rickard said.

"All indigenous cultures should be wary of the effects of globalization. Your works should not be market-driven. Market your culture. Take the best of what you can do and market them," he said.

Most Ifugao woodcarvings in New Zealand are bowls that fetch about $40 (P1,800) to $50 (P2,250), he said.

Rickard and the Asin carvers interacted by carving a totem out of an *agoho* log. Rickard used traditional and modern carving tools, including an ax made of green jade worth $2,000 (P90,000).

Ifugao carvers, like Lopez Nauyac and Ernesto Dul-ang, took turns in carving while Rickard exchanged chants with the audience.

"The real tools you need are patience, *aroha* (love) and *mahi ate ringa* (being good with your hands)," Rickard said.

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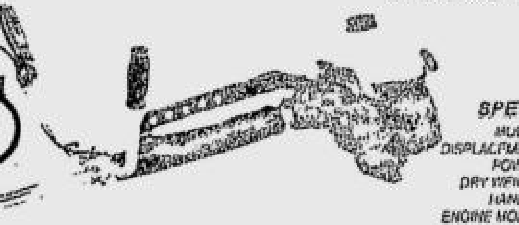

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Coconut pest moving north, says gov't exec

STA. BARBARA, PANGASINAN—Coconut leaf beetles (*Brontispa longissima*), which devour young coconut fronds, have damaged more than 2,000 trees in two towns and a city in western Pangasinan, a Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) official said.

CHILDREN evacuees in Basilan find use in coconut fronds, forming these into roofing materials for their temporary homes. EDWIN BACASMAS

Eleazar Parohinog, PCA provincial manager, said the infestation could have started from a resort in Labrador town, which imported about 300 ornamental palms. Most of the trees were damaged by the beetle, he said.

Coconut trees in three villages in Labrador and in a village in Sual, including some trees in Alaminos City, were reported hit by the infestation, Parohinog said.

Spreading

"We are treating the affected native coconut trees and are assisting the [Labrador] resort in ridding the ornamental palms of the beetles," he said.

Pangasinan has about 10,000 hectares planted to coconut trees, most of which are in the western part of the province.

Parohinog said the PCA had asked local governments and police to help in monitoring plantations and to report signs of infestation.

"We have not completed our surveillance and we encourage local governments to help provide resources to fight [the pest]," he said.

Parohinog said it was difficult to detect the beetles because these are very small (7.5-10 millimeters long and 1.5-2 mm wide) and hidden in the closed fronds.

It is easy to spot an infected tree because the young fronds turn brown or appear to be scorched, he said.

"The young fronds are brownish while the older fronds may still be green. It is the opposite of the normal [appearance of leaves] in which inner younger fronds are green while the older fronds are brown," Parohinog said.

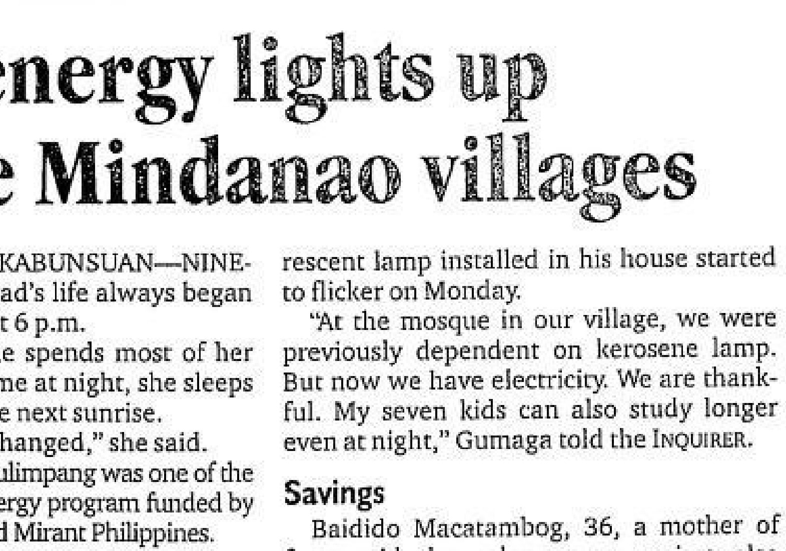
Beetle feed

Coconut trees grow fronds every month but a tree may eventually die as the beetles eat its young leaves, he said.

To stop the infestation, he said the infected fronds should be tied so the beetles could not escape and their eggs would not fall. The fronds are pruned and burned.

The PCA, Parohinog said, also injected chemicals in the trunk to kill the beetles. However, they usually avoid doing this so that the chemicals would not affect the health of the tree and quality of its fruits.

A natural predator of the coconut leaf beetle is the earwig insect, but Parohinog said this is used only when infestation is not widespread. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



MUSLIM CHILDREN of Kulimpang, Shariff Kabunsuan, have every reason to smile as their village gets electricity for the first time. The electrification project was funded by the US government and relies on solar energy that was once very expensive. JEFF MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Solar energy lights up remote Mindanao villages

BULDON, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—NINE-year-old Jamael Akmad's life always began at 6 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m.

During the day, she spends most of her time in school. At home at night, she sleeps early and waits for the next sunrise.

"But now, life has changed," she said.

Jamael's village of Kulimpang was one of the recipients of a solar energy program funded by the US government and Mirant Philippines.

"We can now study at night, we can now see the world through our television," Jamael, a Grade 4 pupil at the Kulimpang Elementary School, said.

The electrification project, which has been ongoing in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, provided "light" and "new life" to thousands of children, like Akmad, in the region's poorest and far-flung communities.

Sun's benefits

For example, the solar energy harnessed by the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore) program also benefited fisherman Ajijul Sampang of Tawi-Tawi.

"I had four Petromax (kerosene lamps) before but I sold three of them. In our village, nobody needs them now except those fishing at night. We already have electricity," Sampang said.

Bukari Gumaga, 47, an *imam* of Kulimpang, thanked Allah when the fluorescent lamp installed in his house started to flicker on Monday.

"At the mosque in our village, we were previously dependent on kerosene lamp. But now we have electricity. We are thankful. My seven kids can also study longer even at night," Gumaga told the INQUIRER.

Savings

Baidido Macatambog, 36, a mother of four, said the solar-energy project also meant savings for her and her family.

"We can now save the money we spend for kerosene daily. We are planning to buy a television so that we will know what's happening in our country and we can watch leading soap opera shows," Macatambog said.

To mark the "energization" of some 12,000 household in the ARMM, Amore beneficiaries participated in the region-wide switch-on ceremony on Monday evening.

The event coincided with the observance of Lailatul Qadr or the "Night of Power" in Islam. Lailatur Qadr is celebrated during one of the odd nights in the last 10 days of Ramadan.

Muslims believe that it was during Lailatul Qadr when the first Divine revelation came to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). *Edwin Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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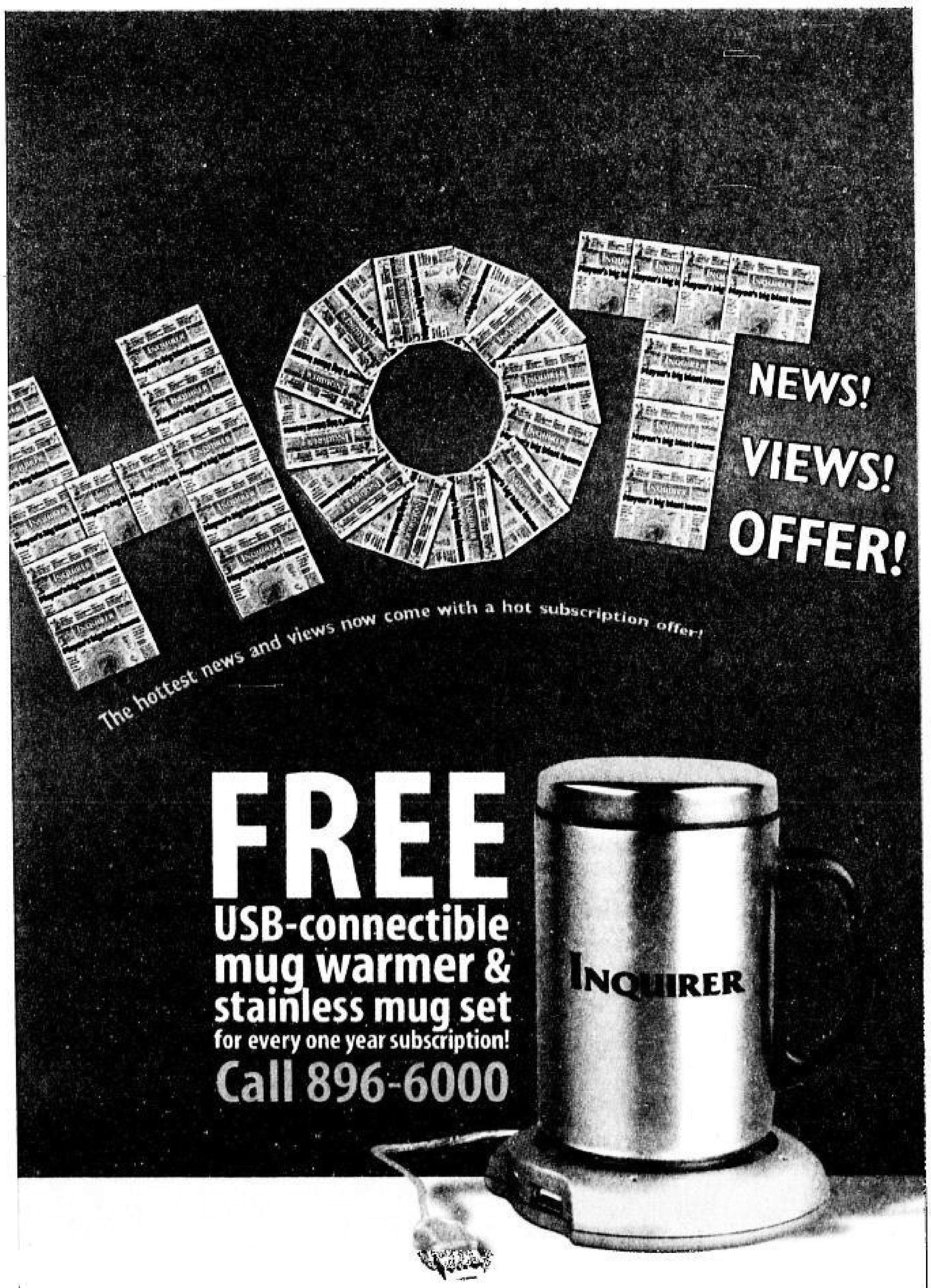
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Soldiers pulled out of Basilan to fight NPA

MEMBERS of the 1st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion of the Philippine Navy and the 355th Aviation Engineering Wing of the Philippine Air Force prepare before being deployed to Basilan. REM ZAMORA

LEGAZPI CITY—REGIONAL police and military units have joined forces to streamline the antiinsurgency campaign in Bicol with the launch of a joint technical working group (TWG) at Camp Simeon Ola here on Tuesday.

The TWG will coordinate the action plan and organize manpower between the two parties in preparation for the upcoming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

This will include the finalization of plans to pull out troops from Basilan for deployment to the 9th Infantry Division stationed in Camarines Sur, said regional police spokesperson, Senior Supt. Eliciar Bron.

"A battalion will be pulled out from Basilan and deployed to Bicol, considering the atrocities done by local communist rebels here, more so with the forthcoming elections," he said.

Although the damage wrought by the New People's Army to the local government has been minimal, it is still highly active in the region, he added.

Two companies from Basilan have already been deployed to Sorsogon province, and two more will be deployed to Masbate province.

"Through the TWG, the PNP can synchronize with the Army's internal security operations for an honest, clean and peaceful election," Bron said.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sodusta, commanding general of the 9th ID, said the AFP would be establishing checkpoints throughout the region during the elections.

They will also utilize available manpower in the campaign against the communist rebels by reorganizing the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) across Bicol. One additional platoon will be deployed to Masbate, and another company and naval group to Catanduanes.

Sodusta proposed the deployment of militiamen, specifically to secure areas prone to attacks from lawless elements, such as communications cell sites, mining sites, and electric and telephone facilities.

He called for coordination between personnel from the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces during combat operations against the NPA, so that more men could be positioned to guard the guerrillas' escape routes. *Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Workers fear closure of steel firm

CALAMBA CITY—THE LABOR union of the country's biggest manufacturer of steel roofing materials on Saturday raised concern over the possible mass layoff of hundreds of its members with the imminent closure of its factory in Balayan, Batangas.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the union of Steel Corporation of the Philippines (SCP) said its fear stemmed from the decision of Batangas Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Cecilia Austria to install a management committee to oversee the company's rehabilitation.

Surprise

The Steel Corp. Labor Union-Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (SCLU-PTGWO) said Austria's ruling would only pave the way for the supposed planned takeover of the company by Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"We initially thought that the rehabilitation issue was meant to better the financial condition of the company. But we were surprised to learn that it had now become a change of ownership and management … It's now a corporate squabble," the statement, written in Filipino, read.

The group said that once the new management took over, it would only lead to the closure of the whole facility.

This would then provide the opportunity for the management committee to facilitate the selling of the steel firm to the bank which, in turn, would allow its new owners to reorganize the company, including its employees, the union said.

Precedent

It said these events preceded the closure of the factory of Bacnotan Steel Corp. in nearby Calaca town a few years back.

"Just like with the Bacnotan Steel, the eventual closure of SCP may start with the steel company being sold and resold. In this situation, it will be the workers and their families who will be at the losing end," the union said.

SCP, which supplies more than half of the country's demand for steel roofing and GI sheets, has been under receivership and rehabilitation after suffering heavy losses since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

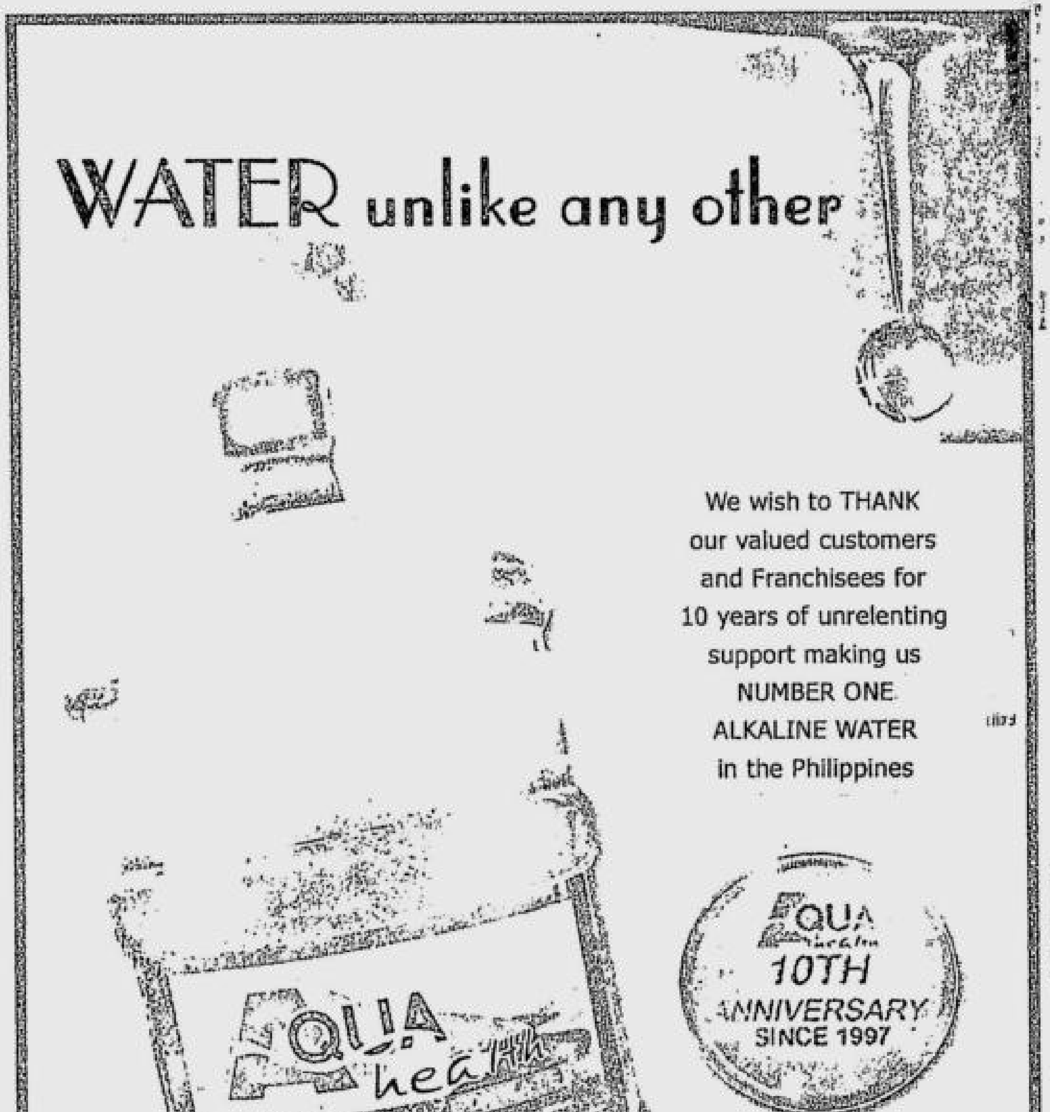
The company, owned by Abeto Uy, was put under rehabilitation after Equitable-PCI Bank filed a case in 2006 before Austria's sala when it failed to pay its P1.8 billion debt to the bank.

New owners

BDO, owned by influential taipan and shopping mall magnate Henry Sy, has acquired Equitable-PCI Bank.

Union officers said Sy's group was keen on taking over the steel company by converting SCP's P1.8-billion loan to get hold of 67 percent of ownership.

"Running a steel company is not the business of the bank. And putting in a new management may only aggravate SCP's present financial condition," the group argued. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*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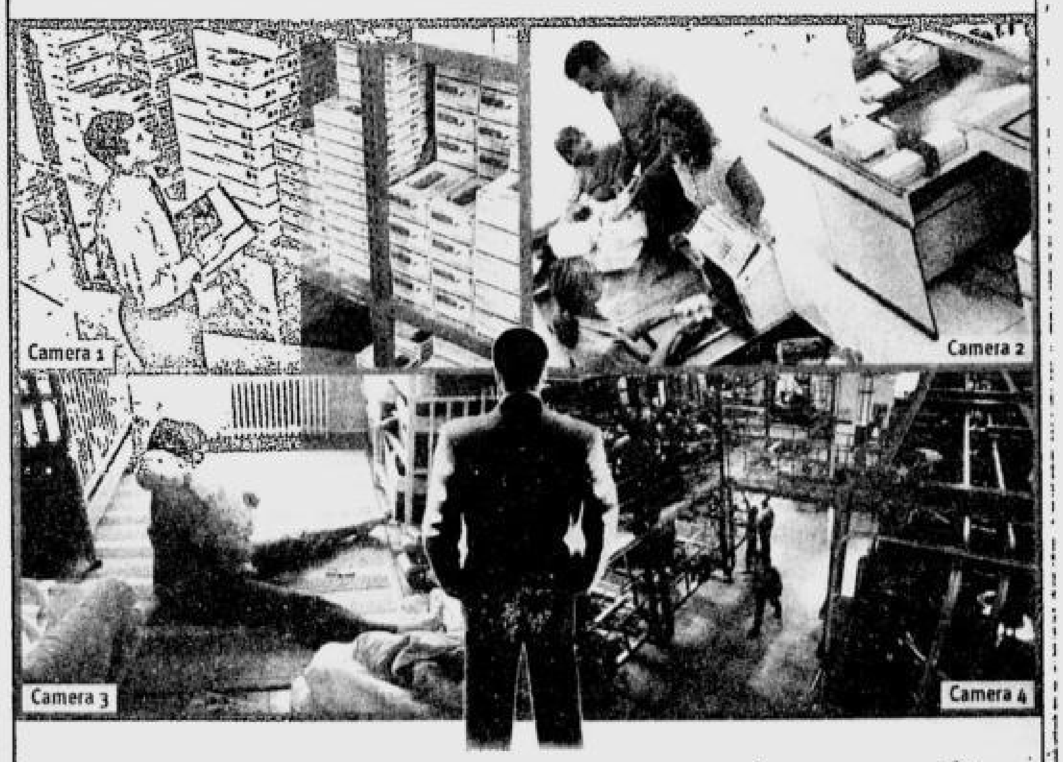

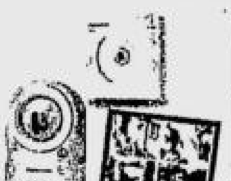

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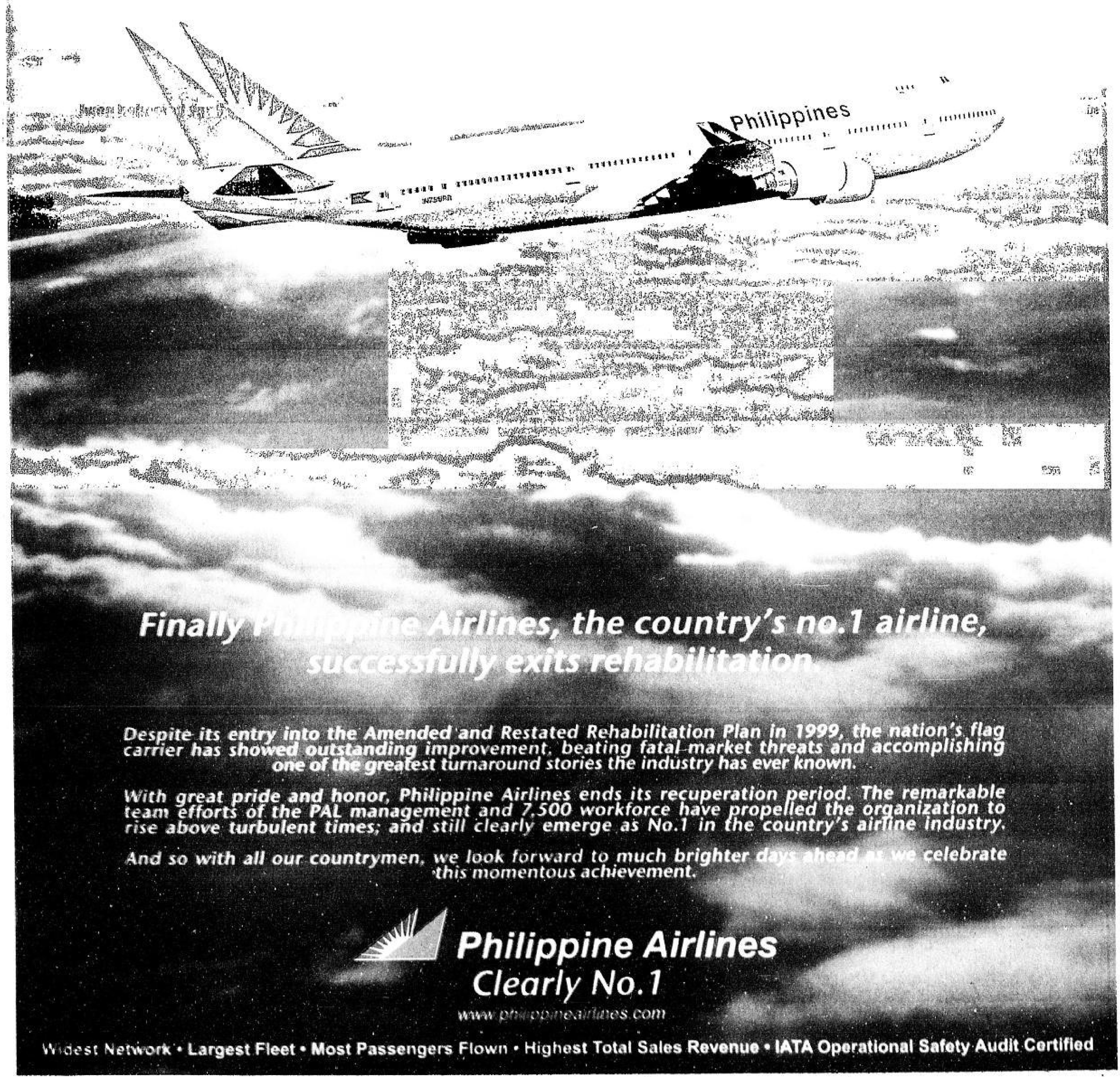

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‘Bringing dignity back to the people’

PANLILIO during a visit to the INQUIRER office.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The poor have ceased being just receivers and the rich, the givers. They both participate in building families and communities in Pampanga.

This is the “paradigm shift” that Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a Catholic priest, said he had helped introduce in his first 100 days in office.

It manifested also in the ability of Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao and provincial board members to “rise above their disagreements” with him and “putting the needs of the people above all else,” he said.

In three months, the provincial government has allocated P63 million for infrastructure and P52 million for basic social services.

Reporting on his first 100 days on Monday at the capitol, Panlilio said the vehicle in removing the recipient-giver mentality was the “Pamisaupan” or “Helping Each Other” program.

Even poor residents have a part in this, he said, by providing labor to repair classrooms and hospitals and it construct toilets on supplies provided by the capitol.

Private partners, on the other hand, help by validating the needs in schools and communities, or rendering labor for construction or management expertise in community projects.

“The key to the uplift of the lives of the masses is our giving importance to the advancement of their dignity,” he said.

“We do this because that is the mandate of our servanthood. And when we do this, it should be nothing more, nothing less. We’re bringing our people’s dignity back,” said the 53-year-old governor.

Panlilio said the accomplishments in the first 100 days were not his alone but shared by more than 1,000 capitol officials and employees, the provincial board and private groups.

His seven-page “scorecard” included the improvements of facilities and services in nine district hospitals and the Diosdado Macapagal Provincial Hospital. Those hospitals were given an additional P300,000 each for medicines.

The Pampanga Health Office is building a laboratory to screen tuberculosis patients.

The supplemental feeding program has been started in six schools and medical missions are done every week in remote villages.

Nearly 500 walk-ins seeking medical and social assistance have received more than P900,000.

In education, the provincial government has adopted a program to stop the high dropout rates and increase the comprehension level of students.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cops kill 3 robbery gang men in San Pablo clash

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THREE suspected members of a notorious robbery syndicate were killed in a gunfight with policemen shortly after they supposedly held up a man in San Pablo City early Tuesday.

Killed were Gregorio Ruellas, 31, alleged gang leader; Santiago Pontanoza, 27, and his brother Jayson, 25, all of Barangay Bautista, San Pablo.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., provincial police director, said the three belonged to the Ruellas robbery group whose members were known to hit small business establishments, like rural banks and pawnshops, in San Pablo and nearby towns.

A few hours before the encounter, a certain Romeo Formales sought police help after a group of men on a tricycle held him up while waiting for a ride in Barangay Santo Angel, Rojas said.

The victim’s description of the suspects “pointed to the same set of armed men behind the series of robberies in the area,” he told the INQUIRER over the phone. The lawmen immediately went on patrol and set up checkpoints, he said.

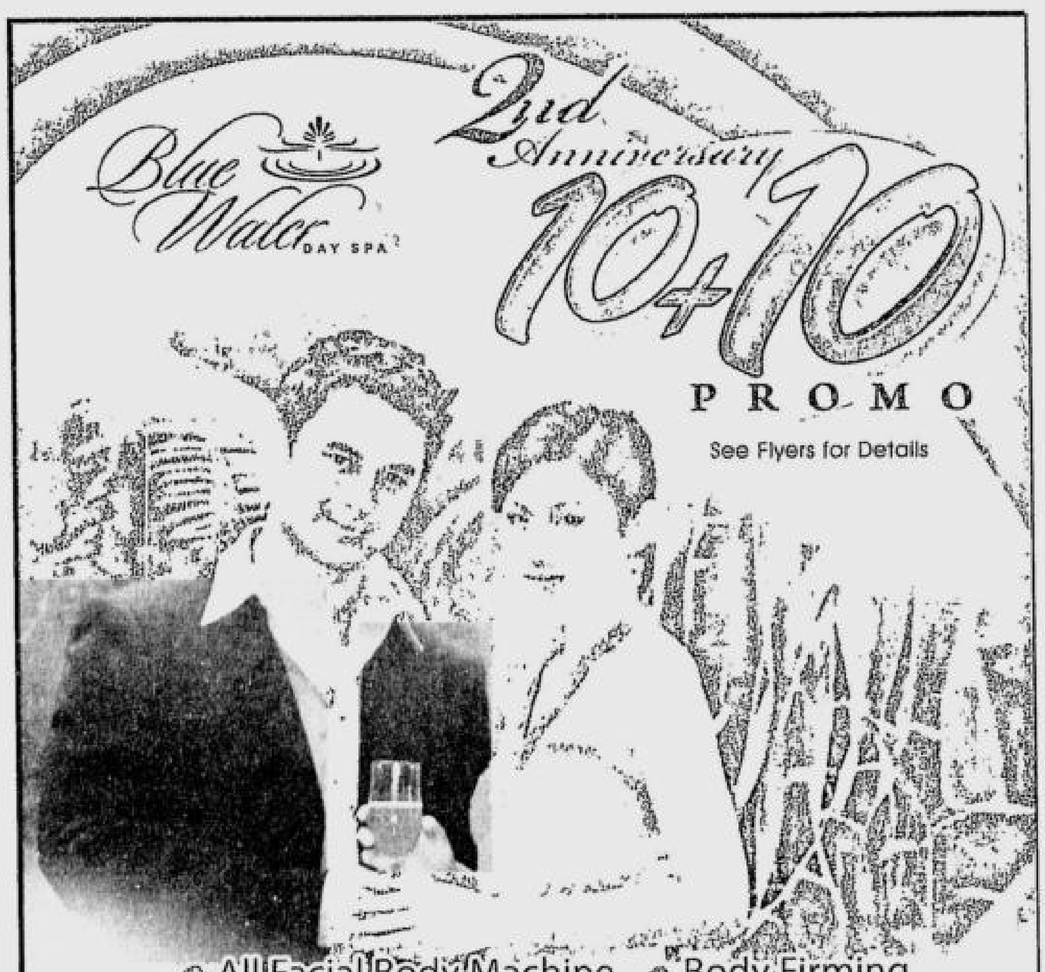
The Traffic Management Group-Laguna also sent a team to help in pursuit operations.

At 2:30 a.m., three men on a tricycle evaded policemen who flagged them down at a checkpoint in Barangay Concepcion.

“Instead of stopping ..., the suspects just passed by the policemen and open fired. That triggered the shootout,” Rojas said.

All three died on the spot. Recovered from them were two .38 cal. revolvers and a hand grenade.

Rojas said the suspects had criminal records at the city police for various offenses. *Marlon Ramos, INQUIRER Southern Luzon*



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GUARANTEED CASH BENEFITS*			HOSPITALIZATION	
Plan	18-47	48-55	Plan	Hospitalization Benefits
100	210,885	217,260	100	P200/day
200	269,280	315,180	200	P400/day
300	403,920	472,770	300	P600/day
400	538,560	630,360	400	P800/day
500	673,200	787,950	500	P1,000/day
1000	1,346,400	1,575,900	1000	P2,000/day

*The guaranteed cash benefits specified above can only be given to you at the end of the 20-year protection period. However, any hospitalization claims made during the policy period will be deducted from your guaranteed cash benefits

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

	MONTHLY		ANNUAL	
Plan	18-47	48-55	18-47	48-55
100	806.00	831.00	8,270.00	8,520.00
200	1,030.00	1,206.00	10,560.00	12,360.00
300	1,545.00	1,809.00	15,840.00	18,540.00
400	2,060.00	2,412.00	21,120.00	24,720.00
500	2,575.00	3,015.00	26,400.00	30,900.00
1000	5,150.00	6,030.00	52,800.00	61,800.00

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ABOUT THE APPLICANT / OWNER / PAYOR (PLEASE WRITE IN PRINT)
FIRST MIDDLE LAST
Name:
Home Address:
Postal Code:
Home Tel. / Fax No
Civil Status:
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)
Age:
Place of Birth:
Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female
Occupation:
Monthly Income:
Company
Business Address:
Postal Code:
TIN #:
SSS #:
Office Tel. / Fax No
e-mail Address

Send my insurance documents to my:
☐ Business Address ☐ Home Address

I want the coverage of:
☐ PLAN 100 ☐ PLAN 200 ☐ PLAN 400 ☐ PLAN 500
☐ PLAN 800 ☐ PLAN 1000 ☐ Others _

I prefer to pay:
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually

In case of premium default, I elect (check one only):
☐ Cash Surrender Value ☐ Extended Term Insurance
☐ Automatic Payment of Premium

In the absence of such an election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the Policy, this Policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating Extended Term Insurance.

Policy Dividend Option (check one only):
☐ Paid in Cash ☐ Used to reduce premiums
☐ Left with the company to earn interest

If none is chosen, “Left with company to earn interest” shall be applied. • If “Left with the company to earn interest” is elected or applied, I hereby authorize the Company to apply policy dividends, together with the available cash values, for payment of the premiums under any of the Premium Default Options in effect and/or policy loan interest. It is understood that I also have the option to withdraw any available accumulated dividends left on deposit with the Company. • Policy dividends, if any, shall be determined exclusively by the Company. Policy dividends are not guaranteed as they vary depending on certain factors such as the Company’s mortality experience, investment returns and expenses. As such, the Company does not guarantee that policy dividends shall be sufficient to pay for any future premiums

Insurance benefits are to be paid to
FIRST MIDDLE LAST
Beneficiary/ies:
Relationship to the Insured:
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):
Age:
The default [illegible] ed otherwise

1. During the past 5 years, have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or been confined in a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution? ☐ YES ☐ NO
2. Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure or tuberculosis, kidney disorder, nervous disorder or HIV-AIDS? (If YES, underline which ailment.) ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Are you now in good health? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. What is your HEIGHT?_ ft., WEIGHT?_ ________ lbs

Important: If you answered “YES” to any of the questions above, please give full details. Include doctor’s name and address, hospital, nature, date and result of consultation, ailment or impairment. Use separate sheet if necessary

I understand that this insurance is issued based on the above statements, which I represent are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I authorize any physician, hospital, clinic or other medically-related facility to furnish The INSULAR LIFE Assurance Company, Ltd. with any information concerning my medical history and physical condition. I understand that the policy will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment

✓
APPLICANT / OWNER / INSURED

Date

DECLARATION ON THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING POLICY(IES)
*For the APPLICANT-OWNER to answer
1 Total Life Insurance in Force on Proposed Insured
Company Basic/Cover Accident Rider/Year of Issue

Has there been or will there be any change in any existing insurance in force? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Will premiums for the insurance applied for be paid by a policy loan from any existing policy? ☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPORTANT : if yes, please furnish details [illegible] y number, and amount of insurance being replaced).

REMINDER: It is usually disadvantageous to REPLACE existing life insurance policy(ies) with a new one. Some disadvantages are: • You may not be insurable on standard terms. • You may have to pay a higher premium in view of higher age. • You may lose financial benefits accumulated over the years.

Please note that in your own interest, we would advise that you consult your present insurer before making a final decision. Hear from both sides and make a careful comparison. You can then be sure that you are making a decision that is in your best interest.

✓
APPLICANT / OWNER / INSURED (Printed Name and Signature)

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INSULAR LIFE

Palace won't give Senate ...

From page A1

documents prior to the conclusion of all implementing agreements under the framework of an executive agreement," Santos said.

The Senate has demanded that Neda submit minutes of Neda-ICC meetings, an outline of events leading to the NBN approval, a timeline of projects from 2005 to 2007 and the government's track record in other major projects such as the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit.

Unanswered questions

Senators want to know why Santos' predecessor, Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, endorsed the NBN project even after he rejected the alleged bribe offered by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Invoking executive privilege under Executive Order No. 464, Neri refused to talk about the role of the President in approving the ZTE deal. EO 464 prohibits officials of the executive department from testifying in Congress without the permission of the President.

The Senate also wants to know why the government made a complete policy turnaround on the NBN project, which was supposed to be built using private rather than government money.

The Senate joint committees issued separate subpoenas to Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and his assistant secretary, Lorenzo Formoso III.

Mendoza is being asked about a legal opinion of the Department of Justice on the procurement process, the ratification of the deal between the Philippine and Chinese governments, specifically the Dec. 2, 2006 letter of Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun to then Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, the location of the 300 base stations for the NBN project, a breakdown of the P4.6 billion in annual communication bill of the government, and a list of governments that own a broadband network.

Hearing resumes Oct. 25

Formoso has been ordered to submit the Department of Budget and Management's forward obligation authority; the loan agreement between the Eximbank of China and the Philippine Department of Finance; and the copy of his PowerPoint presentation at the Ateneo Professional School on June 20, 2007.

The Senate probe of the NBN deal is scheduled to resume on Oct. 25 with the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, as one of the witnesses.

SC rules: No total ban on milk ...

From page A1

included in the government's Milk Code, took effect last year. According to a report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, P2.3 billion was spent to advertise infant formula during the first half of 2006.

The high court struck down portions of the Milk Code's revised implementing rules and regulations (RIRR) in partially ruling for milk companies represented by the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

But it also lifted the temporary restraining order on the implementation of the RIRR for the Milk Code and upheld the code's other provisions. It also said that for the ban on infant formula ads to be implemented, the Milk Code should be amended.

"The national policy of protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding cannot automatically be equated with a total ban on advertising for breast milk substitutes," the high court said in a decision written by Justice Alicia Austria-Martinez.

Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura did not take part in the voting. Justices Adolfo Azcuna and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago are on leave.

Best, but...

In its decision, the Supreme Court said it recognized that breast milk was best for infants.

But the tribune said it could not support the DOH's absolute prohibition on infant formula ads because this went beyond the Milk Code's scope and was thus null and void.

It also said the DOH could only regulate and not completely ban the advertising, promotion, marketing materials and activities for breast milk substitutes for children up to two years of age, as stated in the Milk Code.

Speaking for Arugaan, a breastfeeding advocacy group that had been working with the DOH on the issue of the ad ban, Ines Fernandez yesterday said the tribunal's decision was "ridiculous."

"We are enraged. The future of Filipino children is now for sale. We can't see any righteousness in this," Fernandez said.

She added: "What freedom of choice are we talking about when what [the people] have is a misinformed choice? That freedom is supposed to protect the people en masse."

Arugaan is a nongovernment organization that provides a support system for Filipino mothers and their babies. It leads about a hundred other NGOs under the Save the Babies Coalition.

Subliminal messages

The ban was included in the RIRR for the Milk Code because the ads and promotions were believed to convey subliminal messages that undermined breast milk and breastfeeding, or exaggerated the effects of breast milk substitutes.

In questioning the RIRR—which, among other things, banned the advertisement, promotion or marketing of materials and activities for breast milk substitutes intended for infants and children up to two years of age—the PHAP had contended that the DOH went beyond its mandate, hampered the people's right to information, and encroached on their freedom to choose between breast milk or its substitutes.

The DOH yesterday deferred comment pending full reading of the decision.

Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla told the INQUIRER that the DOH would, at the very least, file a motion for reconsideration to clarify certain matters with the tribunal.

Commercial speech

In a separate and concurring opinion, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the total ban on ads of infant formula and breast milk substitutes also affected free speech.

Puno said such ads fell within the scope of commercial speech, or speech proposing an economic transaction. He said such speech was not given the same level of protection as other kinds of expression, but was protected nonetheless.

The Chief Justice said the absolute ban on the ads was "unduly restrictive" and "more than necessary" to achieve the government's goal of promoting the health of infants and young children.

"It ought to be self-evident, for instance, that the advertisement of such products which are strictly informative cuts too deep on free speech. The laudable concern of the [DOH] for the promotion of the health of infants and young children cannot justify the absolute, overarching ban," he said.

But Arugaan's Fernandez said the high court's decision favored the protection of infant formula sales rather than mothers and their babies.

She said the issue did not simply concern freedom of speech because the ads were reaching mothers directly in their homes and contributing to misinformation on the use of infant formula.

Ad regulation

In its decision, the high court said the DOH's Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) had the power to regulate the ads on breast milk substitutes.

It noted that even the Office of the Solicitor General had said during oral arguments that the ad ban was not in place.

The Milk Code states that no advertising should be published, distributed or broadcast unless these are authorized and approved by the IAC, the high court also pointed out, adding that even the RIRR reiterated that this committee should approve advertising, marketing and promotional materials.

The tribunal also nullified the portion of the RIRR that prescribed administrative sanctions for violation of the code, saying: "In the present case, neither the Milk Code nor the Revised Administrative Code grants the DOH the authority to fix or impose administrative fines."

But it upheld the other portions of the RIRR that had been questioned by the PHAP.

The court said the DOH had the power to control what kind of information was put out about breast milk substitutes. (Thus, the RIRR prohibition on health and nutrition claims such as increased emotional and intellectual abilities in the infant and young child fed breast milk substitutes is valid.)

It also said the requirement was consistent with the Milk Code, which states that information provided by manufacturers and distributors should be restricted to scientific and factual matters and should not promote the thinking that the products are equal or superior to breast milk. *With a report from Beverly T. Natividad*

Resolution of Support to Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade

Whereas, a case had been filed against LWUA Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) with respect to the emergency rehabilitation of the Umiray Dam / Tunnel in 2004-2005, and a decision was recently handed down by the Office of the President;

Whereas, we are active players in the water industry and are, thus, familiar with this arrangement between Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and its concesssionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, as regards the operation and maintenance of water distribution and other facilities, including funding for the repair and rehabilitation of these facilities;

Whereas, a review of the facts of the case would yield that Administrator Hondrade only acted with circumspect and dispatch to prevent an imminent water crisis in Manila and nearby areas due to the combined effects of the El Nino phenomenon and the destruction of the Umiray Dam by typhoon Winnie in December 2004, that prevented water to flow into the Angat Dam;

Whereas, as an effect of such destruction, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo instructed Administrator Hondrade to ensure that the clearing of the Umiray tunnel and the emergency repairs of the damaged dam should be immediately completed not later then 31 March 2005;

Whereas, Administrator Hondrade, in his capacity then as MWSS Administrator, coordinated with Maynilad and Manila Water for the immediate clearing of the area and the de-clogging of the tunnel as well as the urgent repair of the damaged facilities;

Whereas, Maynilad Water and Manila Water shouldered, on a 50-50 basis, all the expenses for the clearing operation and immediate repairs of the Umiray dam, in accordance with duly executed agreement with MWSS and in line with the "privatization" of certain MWSS functions; and that no government funds nor taxpayers money were ultimately spent nor lost;

Whereas, Adm. Hondrade satisfactorily complied with the instruction of the President, and fifteen (15) days before her deadline, "Umiray water began to flow into Angat Dam and the impending water crisis was effectively prevented;"

Whereas, we have fully known Administrator Hondrade, based on our individual and collective experience with him, to be a man of action and very prudent--mindful of existing government rules--in everything he does as a government official.

Wherefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that we, members and / or participants in the Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA) National Convention held at Puerto Princesa, Palawan on October 3-4, 2007, hereto pass this Resolution of Support and that copies of this Resolution be published in newspapers of general circulation so that the public may know the truth.

Signed, this 3rd day of October, 2007, by the following persons and entities.

MODESTO FRANK ... STAWD PRESIDENT

VP-Federated ... Suppliers sector

Ma. Corazon Molabon
Chairman, MKWD
PAWD Director, Region XII

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PRESIDENT . WELL DRILLING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

VICTOR Y. CHAN
PWWA Director
At Large Sector

EDGARDO Q. ESTEBAN
PWWA Board Secretary
Consultant, MWSS

JESUS JOSE C. MUNOZ
PWWA DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Enrique S. Reyes Ed.D
Chairperson
CSFWD, City of San Fdo., Pampanga

ROMEO P. CALARA
PRESIDENT, PAWD (PHIL. ASSOC. OF WATER DISTS)

EDGAR L. OPEÑA
CHAIRMAN – LAWD
(LUZON ASSOC OF WATER DISTRICTS)

EMERIC S. PUNCION
ILOCOS NORTE WD

JAIME T. LOPEZ
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
AMANZI, INC.

ANTONIO A. GOH
CHAIRMAN PUERTO PRINCESA W.DIST.

ARTURO C. VILLASAN
Chair, PAWD
(Phil. Association of Water Dist)

EDUARDO BANGAYAN
CHAIRMAN – DCWD

ATTY FRANCIS DIMALANTA
GM – MABALACAT WD (PAWD Secretary)

LORETO LIMCOLIOC
General Manager – SUDMC WD

Judith B. Afinaya
Director, SDMC WD Board

ALFREDO M. SALINDA
Managing Director, Balibago Waterworks System, Inc.

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Ligao City Water District

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RICARDO B. PEREZ
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Metro Roxas Water District, Roxas City

Palace disowns role in bribe offer raps

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY disowned any involvement in alleged bribery attempts to derail impeachment moves against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It accused the opposition of playing a game by making it appear that the new impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo was initiated by the administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo would not be distracted by allegations that a Palace ally, Francis Ver, was offering bribes to opposition congressmen.

"We are disappointed, but not the least surprised, at this unsubstantiated allegation," Bunye said in a statement.

"On her part, the President will just stay focused on keeping the nation on track even if her detractors have nothing better to do than continue down their bitter path," he said.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said that Ver—an official of Ms Arroyo's Kampi party—was "planted by the opposition," noting that it was impossible for "a Malacañang fellow to sit in the House gallery and approach opposition congressmen to offer them bribes."

Like bribing the Pope

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who is also Ms Arroyo's political adviser and Kampi chair, said that what Ver was doing was "baffling" to the party.

"I just want to let everyone know that Kampi has nothing to do with the actions of this individual, that nothing that has been done is in anyway connected with what Kampi wants to do. We're not in the business of trying to impeach our own President," Puno said.

When he first heard about the bribery allegation, Puno said he thought the person who did that should have his head examined.

"Of all people, if you are going to bribe Ka Bel, it's like bribing the Pope," Puno said.

He was referring to the allegation of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran that Ver had tried to bribe him into endorsing a weak impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

Referring to Ver, Puno said: "Sometimes, I guess people overstepped their bounds, have an idea they could do things that they really don't have capacity to do, presume to speak for people that they really do not speak for."

"I think you can refer to him (Ver) as ex-deputy secretary general of Kampi because certainly this is something that Kampi doesn't countenance."

Puno said that as early as Monday, he confronted Ver after Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa complained that Ver was going around and talking to congressmen about supporting the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

But Puno said that in his short phone talk with Ver, he was unable to get anything out of him.

"I just said some unprintable things but he was just stammering and he wasn't saying anything," Puno said.

He stressed that Kampi had nothing to do with the actions taken by Ver.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said it would be "extremely difficult" for Beltran to prove his claim.

"It's just a person's word against another person and the presumption of innocence is always in favor of the accused," she said.

Briber exec of GMA party

From page A1

House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan said other members of the minority were also offered P1 million to P2 million in bribes each, and P10 million worth of projects by "the same person."

The purportedly weak impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, coupled with allegations of bribes to win lawmakers' endorsements, has widened the "distrust" between her and De Venecia, a senior administration lawmaker said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the senior lawmaker, who is close to both Ms Arroyo and the Speaker, said the two administration heavyweights appeared to have adopted an attitude of "mutually assured destruction."

"I think they have reached that level," he told the INQUIRER in an interview on Monday night. "The attitude now is 'Don't move against me because while you can destroy me, I can also do the same to you.'"

The congressman asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of his position at the House and his relationship with both Ms Arroyo and De Venecia.

Paranoia evident

The congressman said paranoia was palpable at the House plenary hall on Monday night while lawmakers were rushing to complete deliberations on the proposed 2008 national budget.

He said the group of pro-Arroyo lawmakers, led by Deputy Speaker Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa, asked the majority leadership to immediately include the impeachment case filed by Pulido in the order of business.

They wanted the complaint referred to the committee on justice before the congressional break, which starts Friday, he said. Once it reaches the committee, no other impeachment case may be filed against Ms Arroyo within one year.

Counterattack: Change rules

The source said the Villarosa group had received word that De Venecia's allies wanted to change impeachment rules as a "counterattack" against the Pulido impeachment complaint.

The revision—prepared by Majority Leader Arthur Defensor, a loyal De Venecia supporter—would allow amendments to an impeachment complaint before it is included in the order of business.

The source said Defensor came up with the proposal to address the problem presented by two or more impeachment complaints filed before any one of them lands in the order of business.

Copies of the amendments prepared by the rules rewriting committee were distributed to congressmen earlier this week, he said.

JDV has 80 signatures

"They (Villarosa's group) thought we were going to railroad the process and adopt the revision," the senior lawmaker said. "They didn't want it approved because the Pulido complaint might eventually be improved."

Once the rules are amended, the group fears that Pulido's complaint might be consolidated with the "better" complaints, according to the lawmaker.

An "improved" impeachment case could thus pose a more serious challenge to Ms Arroyo.

"When worst comes to worst, De Venecia can have 80 signatures," he said, referring to the number of congressmen needed to endorse an impeachment complaint so it can be immediately sent to the Senate for trial.

Widening distrust

Villarosa denied meddling with the Pulido complaint or the proposed amendments to the impeachment rules. She said she was more concerned Monday night with allegations that opposition lawmakers had been offered money to sign the impeachment complaint.

She said that Ver, although publicly named only yesterday, was the subject of discussions among leaders of the majority that time.

"I was upset that he was being accused with a lie which was fantastically wrong," Villarosa told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER source said Kampi leaders in the Lower House were closely watching how De Venecia would now move. "The distrust would widen if he decides to sit on the complaint," the source said.

Delaying the referral of the Pulido complaint could work in De Venecia's favor since the door would remain open to the filing of a "stronger" case sooner or later, he said.

First offer: P1M

In his privilege speech, Beltran said that before the plenary budget deliberations were suspended for lunch on Friday, "Mr. Ver approached this representation inside the session hall near the south gallery and offered P1 million in exchange for my signature to the impeachment complaint against the President."

Beltran said he thought at first that Ver was not serious and told him he was busy with the budget deliberations.

"However, a few hours later, that was after lunch break, maybe around two o'clock in the afternoon, he approached me again in the session hall near the South Lounge and offered me P2 million—an amount which is twice as much as his first offer," the lawmaker said.

Indecent proposal

"That was the time when I deemed he was indeed resolute in seeking my support," Beltran said.

He said he had thought of a "polite manner of declining a very indecent proposal" and told Ver "that I have to consult first with my colleagues from the progressive bloc, and with the minority thereafter."

Beltran said that hours after Ver made the offer, he learned that Pulido had filed his impeachment complaint endorsed by Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis.

Beltran said that with the involvement of Ms Arroyo and her husband in the NBN controversy and other deals, "I believe that Malacañang will do everything to save the political leadership of the Arroyo administration."

'Shame on them'

"They can offer bribes to representatives in Congress so they can launch a fake impeachment complaint that will protect the President ... Shame on them," Beltran said.

Zamora put on record that other minority members also received offers from Ver in connection with the Pulido complaint.

"Some were offered P1 million, some P2 million. All were offered P10 million worth of projects," he said.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez told the INQUIRER that it was also Ver who asked that he sign the impeachment complaint but no mention of money was made.

"I confirm that it's one and the same person," Rodriguez said.

Ver, in an interview, denied the allegations. "I assure him (Beltran) I was not trying to bribe him," he said. *(Story on Page A1.)*

He said all he did when he talked to Beltran was ask for the congressman's insights on the impeachment complaint.

Ver denied soliciting Rodriguez's signature, saying their talk was just cursory.

'Lobbyist' monitors for Kampi

From page A1

but not for Filipinos. There were two Filipino VIPs on that flight, Congressman (Prospero) Pichay and (ex-Congressman) Mark Jimenez," Beltran said.

"He's a brilliant lawyer. He was the one who prepared the documents for us," he added.

Ver served as Jimenez's chief of staff when Jimenez was a member of the 12th Congress.

Under the current administration, he became deputy secretary general of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said he knew Francis Ver from the days when Joseph Estrada was still President.

"I remember him as one of the chiefs of staff of the government officials during the Estrada administration," said Rodriguez.

Ver also apparently thought highly of Beltran and Rodriguez.

"Why would I offer a bribe to Ka Beltran? He is the grand old man of the opposition, for crying out loud," Ver told the INQUIRER.

As for Rodriguez, Ver said: "I read his books. We were supposed to graduate together (at the University of the Philippines College of Law) but I got turned back for a year."

Ver graduated in 1981 from the UP College of Law.

"My friends are his friends. When we see each other, we always greet each other," Ver said.

He said he had been a fixture in the House of Representatives the past months to help Kampi congressmen in their work.

Ver said that when he approached Beltran, Rodriguez and Laguna Rep. Dan Fernandez, he was just doing "monitoring" for the party.

"There were persistent reports of an impeachment getting filed so on my own and at no one's prodding, I approached (them)," Ver said.

Ver said he monitored political developments to provide inputs to Kampi's more than 50 congressmen.

"I'm a political worker, like a lobbyist talking to people," Ver said.

"I do things on my own, that's why I get in hot water," he added.

Was he disappointed when Ver allegedly offered him money to endorse a supposedly sham impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo?

"Of course. As I said, I don't want to be placed in a situation wherein my integrity will be questioned," Beltran said.

"I don't know what happened to his politics when he joined Kampi," he added.

Solon files graft case against Abalos

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Beverly T. Natividad
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MAIN CAST IN THE CONTROVERSIAL $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project has all been haled to the Office of the Ombudsman, facing criminal complaints with resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. as the latest addition.

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel yesterday filed the graft complaint against Abalos for allegedly brokering the deal and bribing a Cabinet official and a businessman to ensure that China's ZTE Corp. would bag the contract.

Abalos said he expected the graft case that Akbayan filed against him. "As if it is something new," he said in a phone interview.

He said he had been expecting the filing of charges against him when he resigned his post 10 days ago.

Abalos said he resigned to allow for the filing of the cases because, as a constitutional officer, he was immune from suit. "As I explained before, that is why I resigned, to take away my protection," he said.

4 other complaints filed

Since August, four separate complaints have been filed in the antigraft body against government officials linked to the NBN project, which sought to link national agencies and local government units through a high-capacity telecommunications network.

The first case was filed by the National Bureau of Investigation against Emmanuel Ang, the commercial attaché who supposedly lost the ZTE contract the night after it was signed in Boao, China, on April 21.

On Aug. 28, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla lodged a criminal complaint against Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and his assistant secretaries, Lorenzo Formoso III and Elmer Soneja, for "giving undue advantage" to ZTE in violation of the antigraft law and the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Four executives of the Chinese firm were also named respondents.

On Monday, lawyer Roel Pulido filed graft complaints against Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

The Speaker reportedly concealed his son's financial interest in MultiMedia Telephony Inc. that was granted a legislative franchise during his second term as House leader.

The younger De Venecia was accused of repeatedly applying for and obtaining a legislative franchise in violation of laws banning relatives of the country's high-ranking officials from intervening in any government contract.

De Venecia III is the owner of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), which submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Another lawyer, Ernesto Francisco Jr., earlier asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Abalos and President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel, on their alleged links to the ZTE deal.

Francisco said the request was not a complaint.

The President's husband has been accused by the younger De Venecia of bullying him so he would back off from the project.

P200-M bribe offer

In filing the first graft complaint against Abalos, Baraquel said that based on the testimony of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, the ex-Comelec chief must be held criminally liable.

Neri testified at a Senate hearing on Sept. 26 that Abalos offered him P200 million early this year in exchange for his endorsement of the ZTE project proposal.

At the time, Neri was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, an agency that evaluates proposed government projects.

Abalos has denied Neri's allegation.

He also denied Joey de Venecia's accusation that he offered the businessman $10 million so he would withdraw AHI's unsolicited proposal and that he brokered the deal in exchange for commissions.

Impeachment

Faced with an impeachment complaint accusing him of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust and graft, Abalos resigned his post as Comelec chair on Oct. 1.

In her complaint, Baraquel said Abalos violated the antigraft law and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees when he offered Neri a P200-million bribe when the two officials got together for a golf match.

"In addition to the testimony of Secretary Neri, the testimony of [Abalos] himself contains statements that expose him to liability," she said.

She said Abalos admitted under oath that he was "close" to ZTE officials and that the Chinese firm had paid for his expenses while he was in China.

SAL/net worth

Akbayan would also look into the statement of assets and liabilities and net worth of Abalos for a "possible prong of complaints" involving the forfeiture of ill-gotten assets, if there was any, said the party-list group's lawyer.

"The NBN probe and Abalos' resignation would be for naught if the nation couldn't hold him accountable through an impartial trial," Baraquel told reporters yesterday. "This is the only acceptable closure to the controversy."

Inhibit

Baraquel also called on Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to inhibit from the case due to her perceived closeness to the First Couple.

Gutierrez's objectivity has been questioned by various groups following the decision of the antigraft body to clear Abalos of any liability over the P1.3-billion automation scam in 2004.

Gutierrez said she would consider the calls for her to inhibit from the case if the groups could cite valid grounds for it. "I will have to study their petition once I have a copy," she said.

Baraquel said Akbayan had yet to put into writing its appeal to the Ombudsman.

Gutierrez denied having personal dealings or being close to Abalos or anyone from Malacañang. "We base our decisions on evidence, not on the personalities involved," she told reporters at a press conference the other day.

For her part, Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said all the ZTE-related cases filed with the antigraft body could be consolidated into a single case.

More than five months after Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of the ZTE deal, she scrapped the contract amid allegations of bribery and overpricing.

Miriam's praise for graft raps

Over at the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is urging the Ombudsman to file graft charges against the Speaker and his son in the Sandiganbayan for using their powerful political position to further their business interests.

Santiago made the recommendation yesterday at the budget hearing of the Office of the Ombudsman in which she praised Pulido's graft complaint against the De Venecias.

She said the complaint met "the two standards of prima facie evidence and of probable cause."

"That the Speaker knew of his son's business interests which were pending in the House is allegedly supported by the Speaker's own public statement that his son is the father of broadband in the Philippines," the senator said.

She said the Senate NBN probe showed that the Speaker had lobbied for his son's company by organizing breakfast meetings between his son and Mendoza and with Abalos in his Forbes Park residence.

"He (the Speaker) should, at least, out of a sense of ethics, file a temporary and indefinite leave of absence to erase any doubt that in his official position he may try to influence the outcome of the case," Santiago said.

Nothing wrong

She said the President's husband need not appear at a Senate hearing because there was nothing wrong when he told Joey to "back off" from the deal.

"It is all pursuant to the law. He (Joey) is, in fact, being given good sound legal advice. The complainant himself admitted that the First Gentleman did not ask for any money," she said.

Arroyo was invited to be the main witness at the resumption of the Senate probe on Oct. 25. *With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada*

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Senate, Villar top SWS ratings

THE SENATE RECEIVED THE HIGHEST PUBLIC satisfaction rating among four major public institutions in the latest Social Weather Stations survey. The Arroyo Cabinet scored the lowest.

Among individual leaders, Senate President Manuel Villar and Vice President Noli de Castro got top ratings, while House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Supreme Court chief justice Renato Puno got negative ratings in the survey conducted from Sept. 2 to 5.

The following were the SWS third quarter ratings for the four institutions:

- Senate—56 percent satisfied and 23 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of +32.
- Supreme Court—50 percent satisfied and 26 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of +24.
- Congress—45 percent satisfied and 27 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of +18.
- Cabinet—36 percent satisfied and 35 percent dissatisfied, or a net rating of +1.

The results, according to the SWS press statement, show a recovery in ratings for both legislative branches from a low point in May 2005.

"The Senate traditionally rates higher than the House," SWS noted.

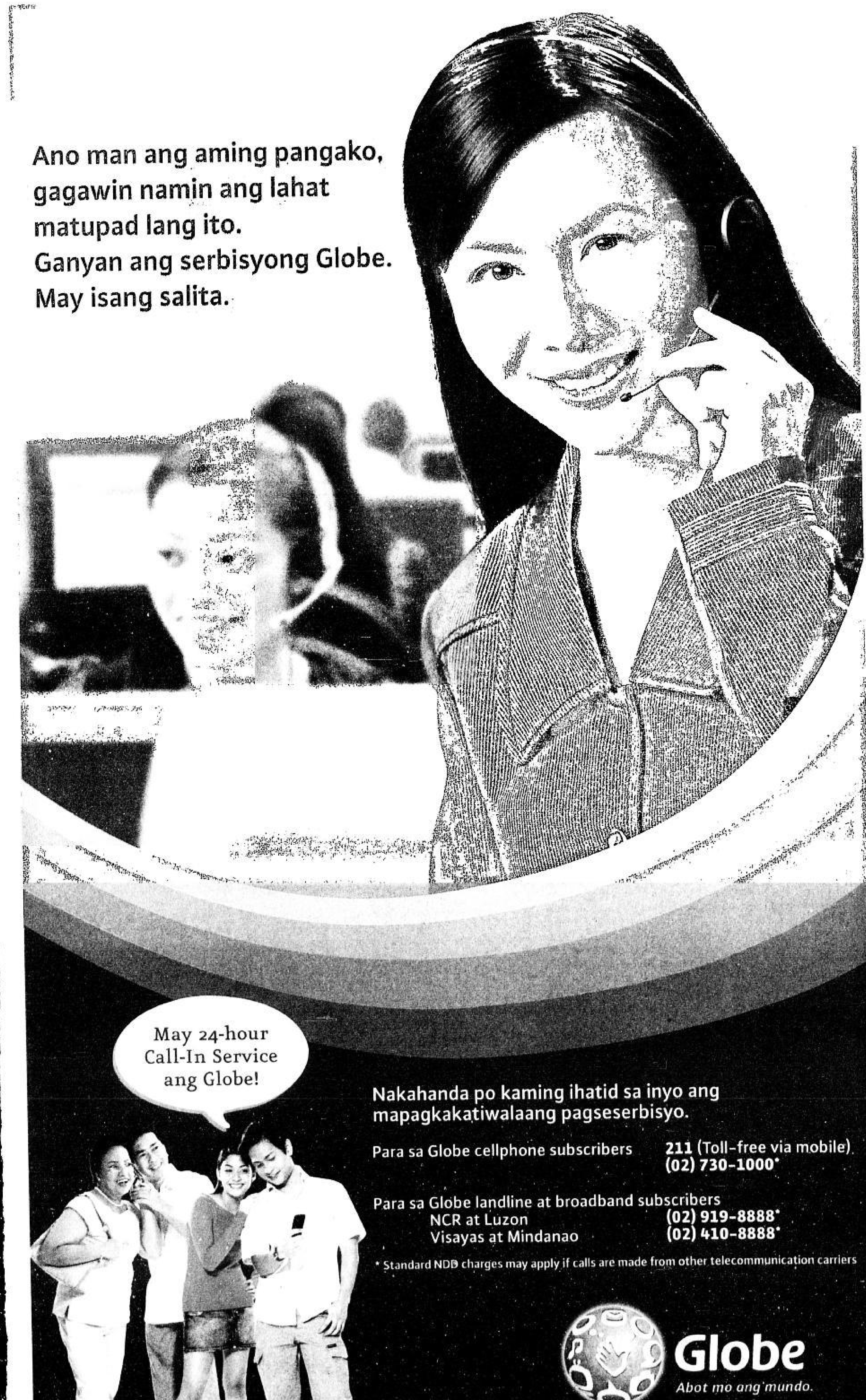
The Supreme Court has also been rating positively over the past two years, and it improved "very much" from +12 in June to +24 in September, the SWS said. It also noted that the last time the Cabinet obtained a double-digit positive rating was three years ago.

The following were the SWS ratings for top officials:

- Senate President Villar—64 percent satisfied and 18 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of +47.
- Vice President de Castro—61 percent satisfied and 23 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of +38.
- Speaker De Venecia—36 percent satisfied and 41 percent dissatisfied, or a net rating of -4.
- Chief Justice Puno—32 percent satisfied and 37 percent dissatisfied, for a net rating of -5.

SWS said the Speaker's net rating has been in single digits since December 2004, and that his net ratings were generally higher during his first stint as Speaker of the House during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos.

Public satisfaction with the Chief Justice, on the other hand, has also either been in single digits or neutral since March, according to SWS.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Fate of CHEd execs in call center mess up to COA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION will not act against CHEd officials linked to the alleged irregularities in the agency's P550-million call center laboratory project.

The CHEd was leaving it to the Commission on Audit to recommend what charges would be filed against the officials, said CHed chair Romulo Neri.

Neri said he would refer to the COA a report on the project made by a CHEd investigating team "for their review and recommendations."

The probe team has confirmed reports of irregularities in connection with the project, known as Integrated Multisite Business Process Outsourcing-Incubation Contact Centers (IMBPO-ICC).

Neri earlier stopped further project-related payments pending results of the CHed investigation.

But CHEd commissioner Saturnino Ocampo Jr. dismissed the report as not official. He said those who conducted the inquiry were "private individuals."

Call center lab

He and two other commissioners, Luningning Umar and Nenalyn Defensor, said payments for the project should continue.

The project is aimed at helping state universities and colleges to set up their own call center training laboratories.

However, the CHEd allegedly jacked up the cost of the project by allowing schools to build separate buildings for the call center laboratories, according to CHEd staff members.

The same sources said the commission also allotted a lion's share of the project's budget to the state-run Polytechnic University of the Philippines contrary to the original plan to put up call center laboratories in at least 25 state universities and colleges nationwide.

CHEd insiders also questioned the Feb. 19 awarding of the contract to a consortium led by e-Services Global Solutions, the only one prequalified by the CHEd bids and awards committee (BAC) in October 2006.

Neri, who was asked by CHEd commissioner Nona Ricafort to have the project investigated, blamed the BAC for not declaring a failed bidding.

"There were grounds to do so. Given the magnitude of the project, it would have been prudent to do so," he said.

The BAC is headed by Julito Vitriolo, deputy executive director, with Evelyn Mojica as vice chair and Regina Fortes, Ronaldo Liveta and Bernard Caballero as members.

Vitriolo earlier denied allegations the BAC had rigged the bidding in favor of e-Services Global Solutions.

Overpricing

The investigating team's report said there was overpricing in the construction of at least six buildings intended to house call center laboratories.

It said the P40,646 per square-meter cost of the new call center building to be put up at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila, was overpriced.

The normal cost of building similar one-floor buildings is only P20,000 per square meter, said the CHEd investigators.

Aside from pre-qualifying only one group, the BAC also failed to consider the questions raised by its technical working group (TWG) on the eligibility documents submitted by the e-Services Global Solutions-led consortium.

The TWG said e-Services Global Solutions and one of its partner firms, Drishti Phil., had failed the bidding's eligibility evaluation for lack of financial records and experience in undertaking government projects.

The BAC also disregarded questions raised about the qualifications of another member of the consortium, Information Transmission Computer Control, the TWG also said.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST Chinese uprising in the Philippines took place in October 1603 in Manila. Chinese nationals led by Eng Kang rose up in arms against the Spanish government, leading to the death of many Filipinos in Quiapo and Tondo, Manila. About 4,000 Pampango soldiers later arrived in Manila and helped Spanish forces quell the rebellion.

Cyril Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Hero's welcome awaits Manny in Manila

Victory parade set; champ's debt payments to city can wait–Lim

LIM

By Allison W. Lopez

A HERO'S WELCOME IS JUST ABOUT all boxing champ Manny Pacquiao can expect from the Manila City government following his defeat Sunday of Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera.

Mayor Alfredo Lim said yesterday that while the city government wants to host a victory parade for Pacquiao, it will not condone the P120,000 in concessionaire's fees he owes the city treasurer.

The boxer used to own a bar—the Knockout Bar—on Baywalk, which Lim had since cleared of all establishments serving liquor. The bar failed to pay four months' worth of concessionaire's fees from April to June 2007 which the city government is now trying to collect from Pacquiao.

"If we condone his debt, the owners of other establishments may tell us that they are also not going to pay their debts. That's about P7 million worth of collectibles. The amount we are trying to collect from Manny is small," said Lim.

The mayor, however, added that he was giving Pacquiao the benefit of the doubt since it was possible that the

HERO'S/ A26

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No permit, no entry to landfill, says Rodriguez mayor

By Kristine L. Alave

WHAT HAPPENS TO METRO Manila's garbage now?

The mayor of Rodriguez, Rizal province yesterday stressed that dump trucks will not be allowed to enter the new landfill in his turf until the provincial government has secured the necessary permits for its operation.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said he was against the operation of the 19-hectare landfill chosen by Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III as an alternative to the recently closed 14-hectare dump in the same town.

According to Cuerpo, he would prevent dump trucks from using the landfill until the issues surrounding it are resolved.

"We would not allow it to operate," the mayor said. The municipality has the right to operate any landfill in its area, he added.

Yesterday morning, Rodriguez residents bearing placards protested the opening of the new dump.

Ynares, meanwhile, said he would tolerate the protests for "one or two days, but if garbage fills the streets of Rizal, the people will get angry."

According to him, the provincial government was ready to strictly enforce the operation of the 19-hectare dump, and had requested the assistance of the Rizal Provincial Police Office in case violence erupts.

Mayor Cuerpo, Ynares added, should elevate his complaint to the courts.

Ynares earlier ordered the closure of the old site and the operation of the adjacent bigger landfill.

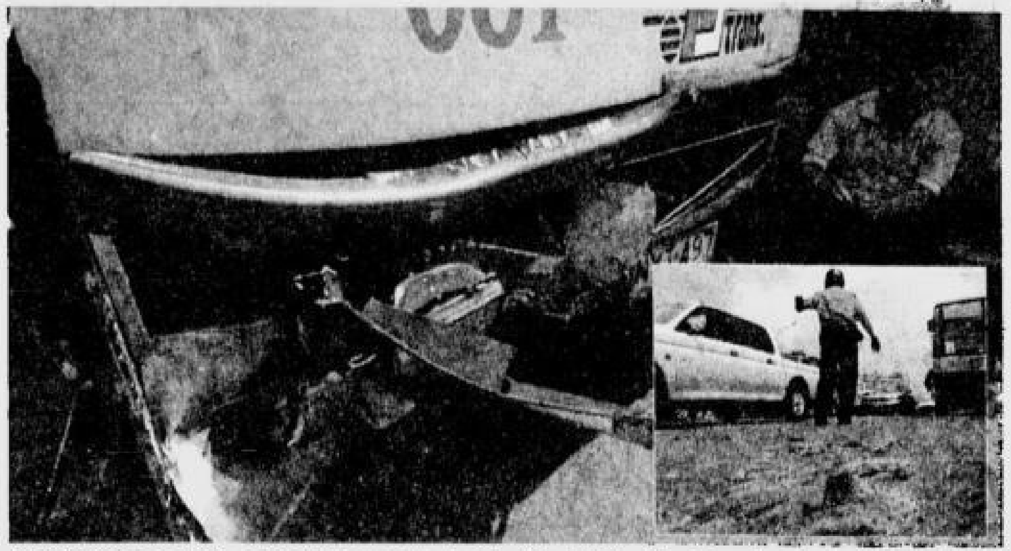
He explained that the smaller landfill had become saturated with garbage that could endanger the health of residents nearby. The governor added that they are in the process of securing an ECC, which is not a permit.

For an environmental group, the closure of the Rodriguez landfill was a welcome development.

According to the Bangon Kalikasan Movement, the move should serve as a wake-up call for Metro Manila mayors to compel their residents to reduce the volume of garbage they produce.

Makati traffic stalls as a result of 8-vehicle smashup

By DJ Yap



ANTONIO Remullo, a bus driver, rests beside his vehicle after it crashed into seven other cars on Edsa, Makati yesterday.

REM ZAMORA

AN EIGHT-VEHICLE SMASHUP CAUSED heavy traffic in Makati City yesterday and left motorists grumbling after a bus lost its brakes and plowed into the cars ahead of it. Fortunately, only one was hurt in the incident that happened on the southbound lane of Edsa, near the Ayala tunnel.

Antonio Remullo, 42, the driver of an NS Transport Bus, with plate number NYT 497, told investigators that he was travelling on the thoroughfare at about 10:15 a.m. when he realized his brakes were not working.

The driver said he had to think fast and decide whether or not to crash the bus into the pavement where workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority were doing repair work, the tunnel wall or directly toward the slow-moving traffic ahead.

Remullo told investigators he thought the damage would be least if the bus, which had about 20 passengers, were to crash into the vehicles in front of him, considering that it was moving at only a moderate speed.

The impact of the crash, however, led to a domino effect, with the bus hitting a Ford Lynx and a Ranger, which in turn smashed into an L300 van and an L200 pickup, a Mitsubishi Adventure, a Mazda taxi and a motorcycle.

The motorcycle was "sandwiched" by the L300 (LDV 118), and the Adventure (ZAM 230), Insp. Oscar Alicando, chief of the traffic accident section of the Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit, said.

The driver, Antonio Vega, 43, of Caloocan City, suffered a broken right leg. He was taken to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment.

An estimate of the damage to all the vehicles was not immediately available.

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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
NEW BOMBAY FOODS, INC. G/F Sagittarius II, H.V. Dela Costa St. Salcedo Vill. Makati City	Deepak Kumar Paliwal Indian	Chef
NEW BOMBAY FOODS, INC. G/F Sagittarius II, H.V. Dela Costa St. Salcedo Vill. Makati City	Khushi Ram Raturi Indian	Chef
NEW BOMBAY FOODS, INC. G/F Sagittarius II, H.V. Dela Costa St. Salcedo Vill. Makati City	Laxman Ganpat Shirke Indian	Chef
ALLIED TELESIS LABS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 3F Net One Ctr. Bldg., 3rd Ave. cor. 26th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	Scott Raymond Fowler Gill Australian	Managing Director
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Purushothama Kadambu Indian	Project Manager
UNILEVER PHILIPPINES, INC. 1351 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila	Ai Chu Gee Malaysian	National Sales Manager, Unilever Foodsolutions
ASIAN COATINGS PHILS., INC. 48 Amang Rodriguez, Santolan, Pasig City	Alexander Michael Compton American	Assistant Coach
KADABRA MINING CORP. 26th St. cor. 3rd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Thomas Rodney Percival Jones British	Chairman of the Board and President
EDUCATION E-LAMP, INC. 2904 C West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sunhag Song Korean	Finance Manager
EDUCATION E-LAMP, INC. 2904 C West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Dong Suk Kim Korean	Shift Manager
MEOGUAN TRADING CO. LTD. 2008 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Hongdiao Wang Chinese	General Manager
NAFEE PHILIPPINES TRADE, INC. 657 San Andres St., Malate, Manila	Mamoru Nakao Japanese	Marketing Manager
PREMIERE MANUFACTURING & TRADING COMPANY 109 N.S. Amoranto, Sr. Ave., Maharlika, Quezon City	Rock Tang Marshallese	Manager
HANG LIM INC. 30 Polaris St. cor. Ferros St., Bel-Air, Makati City	Wonjoong Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Tower 2, Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hendry Njo Indonesian	Chinese-Language Sports Trader
NEW TIME SAVER CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION 1240 E. Delos Santos Avenue, Quezon City	Weidan Wang Chinese	Sales Consultant
WAN FU JEWELRY -BRANCH 1006 Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Metro Manila	Qiongrong Li Chinese	Sales Manager
MATAHARI STUDIOS (PHILIPPINES) INC. Unit 3203 Robinsons Equitable Tower, 4 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	David Eric Marlow American	Vice President/ General Manager
EYE2EYE NETWORK SOLUTION INC. 1733 F.B. Harrison St. Pasay City	Mir Thowhid Ali Bangladeshi	Finance Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–October 10, 2007)

Manila to conduct study on water quality

By Allison W. Lopez and Amy R. Remo

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM YESTERDAY ordered the city government's health chief to conduct an independent study of the quality of water in Manila after an environmental group claimed that it contained harmful substances.

Greenpeace reported the other day that samples of tap and bottled water it had taken from some areas in Metro Manila—specifically Manila, Caloocan and Quezon City—showed traces of hazardous chemicals and high levels of metals.

"Greenpeace said the metal content was high but (water concessionaires) Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water Co. said the water supply was safe. To be certain, we will request the University of the Philippines experts or the Bureau of Food and Drugs to conduct a separate investigation," Lim. Maynilad supplies water to the western zone of Metro Manila while Manila Water services the eastern section.

Among the chemicals reportedly discovered in the tap water samples were trihalomethanes, tricholorethene and dichloropropene.

Trihalomethanes have been found to cause cancer in laboratory animal, while the two other chemicals could cause discomfort in humans and damage to the central nervous system. Greenpeace also reported higher than usual levels of zinc levels in bottled water samples.

Manila Water Co. Inc. corporate affairs head Jeric Sevilla explained that their water goes through 967 sampling points.

Water samples from these points are tested daily and jointly with the Department of Health and Metro Manila Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee.

Frankie Arellano, senior vice president for Quality, Environment, Safety and Health of Maynilad Water Services Inc., said they also have a regular daily sampling taken from over 780 sampling points in the West Zone.

According to the two concessionaires, these samplings have been confirmed by the DOH as "safe and free of harmful chemicals or elements." The quality of Metro-Manila water even surpasses the standards of the World Health Organization," Arellano added.

Body found in garbage bag

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE BODY OF ANOTHER SUSPECTED victim of summary execution was discovered inside a black garbage bag before dawn yesterday in Cubao, Quezon City. The incident was the fifth case to be reported within a month in the area.

Like the other victims, the man found yesterday had a ligature mark around the neck and stab wounds in the chest.

Investigators of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit described the victim as between 25 and 30 years old, 5'7" tall, fair skinned and with a slim build. He was clad in a blue T-shirt and a pair of denim shorts.

The body also bore several tattoos: Tthe name "Gerry Bonayog" on the right shoulder, a spider on the right wrist, a "Michael Siopao" on the lower back and "Macky Ramirez" and "Sigue-Sigue Sputnik" on the upper back. He was found at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday on Cambridge Street, Barangay E. Rodriguez, in Cubao by a tricycle driver.

Leonardo Henson said he was driving his vehicle when he noticed the garbage bag by the side of the street and decided to check its contents.

When he saw a toe sticking out of the bag, he reported his discovery to Barangay Protection and Security Office personnel who subsequently informed the Quezon City police.

Scene of the Crime Office personnel found six stab wounds on the victim's left chest and a ligature mark around his neck.

QCPD-CIDU records showed that from January to August this year, there were reports about the discovery of 30 dead bodies in the city. Most of the cases were never solved because the victims and suspects were not identified.

Text-a-crime service now available

By Tina G. Santos

METRO MANILA RESIDENTS CAN NOW use their cellular phones to report—via text messaging—an ongoing crime, the sighting of a wanted person or an emergency situation that needs immediate action.

The National Bureau of Investigation-Field Operations Division yesterday launched "Kasali Ka," a citizen-based crime reporting system which encourages people to report pressing concerns about crime and related incidents in their respective communities.

"This program is aimed at promoting crime awareness and for the public to have easy access to the NBI using the modern technology," said Roland Argabioso, chief of the NBI-FOD. "We want to mobilize residents and ask them to report suspects in places where there are problems of security, among others." The public may now send information to the NBI via e-mail (nbi_fod@yahoo.com) or through a text message to 0927-3128999 or 0921-6188799, or a phone call to 5253094.

Argabioso said that they came up with the program because most people are afraid to come out in the open to give information or report crime incidents.

"We understand that they're concerned about their safety and security. Through this program, they don't have to reveal their identities. Whatever information they give will remain confidential," he said.

Argabioso, however, warned pranksters to refrain from sending false information. "We have a way of verifying data. While we appreciate the public's cooperation and information provided to us, we will not tolerate unscrupulous individuals from making a mockery of the program."

Hero's welcome awaits . .

From page A25

boxing champ did not know that he owed the city government money.

"It could be the fault of the operator. He could have forgotten to pay us," Lim said.

But the mayor said he would not raise the issue during Pacquiao's victory parade when he arrives in Manila this Friday from the United States.

"Not yet, because that is the time for him to savor his victory. Why should we bring it up? It should be the operator of his establishment who should inform him about this," Lim said.

Pacquiao pocketed from $2 million to $3 million from his "Will to Win" fight against Barrera, but the World Boxing Confederation International super flyweight champ is expected to receive more from "pay-per-view" commissions.

The mayor earlier met with his department heads to plan Friday's victory parade for Pacquiao. But there was still no word from the boxer's camp about whether or not he would join the motorcade, just like he used to do after his previous matches during the term of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Lim, however, said that Pacquiao's closeness to Atienza was not an issue.

"Whatever was accorded him before, we will also give him this time. Everybody applauded what Manny did. We are all proud of him," he said.

"The only difference is that I will not accompany him in the motorcade. He was the one who worked hard to win, he was the one who entered the ring and he was the one who won over Barrera. Why should I share in the people's adulation of him?" Lim added.

METROBRIEFS

Fake Meralco official

A MAN who identified himself as Manuel A. Lopez, chair of the Manila Electric Co., tried to open an account in a Quezon City bank but left after he failed to present an identification card. Michael Saguin, head security of the Meralco main office in Ortigas, reported the incident to the Quezon City police after an employee of the Philippine Savings Bank in Cubao, Quezon City told him that a man who introduced himself as Lopez tried to open a time deposit account with special interest rates last month. According to the PSBank employee, the man wanted to place P20 million in an account which could be withdrawn anytime from a Bank of the Philippine Islands Makati branch. The man, however, quickly left after he could not produce an identification card, arousing the suspicion of bank officials. Saguin said the man might have been planning to obtain funds illegally from Meralco. *Kenneth M. del Rosario*

P700,000 payroll money stolen

THE owner of a manpower services firm lost P700,000 in payroll money to motorcycle-riding robbers yesterday afternoon in Tondo, Manila. Police identified the victim as Rosalina Villafuerte, 52, owner of Filipiniana Manpower Services. Investigation showed that the incident happened at 2:45 p.m. near Quiricada Street and Jose Abad Santos Avenue. The victim said she and the firm's supervisor, Eric Encontro, were on their way back to the office when the incident happened. They were on board a Honda CRV and had just withdrawn money from a bank in Binondo when the armed suspects blocked their path. The suspects ordered the victims to open the door of their vehicle and took the bag containing P700,000 at gunpoint before escaping.

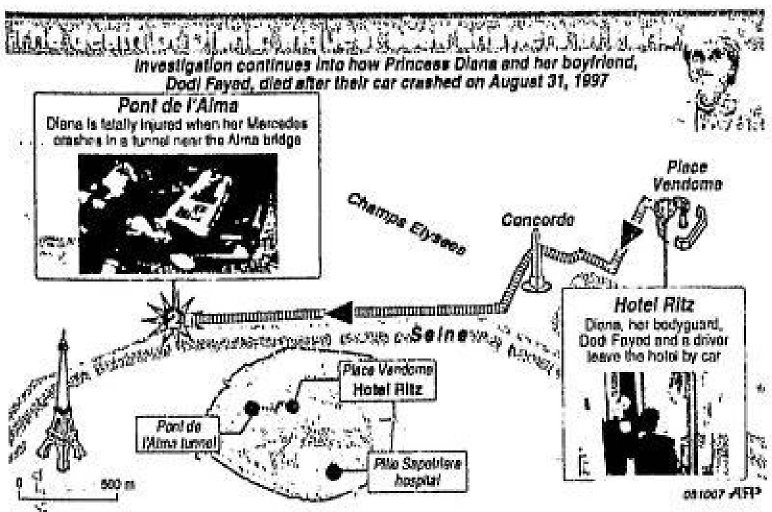
Tina G. Santos

Arts festival features Macuja

MCO Foundation and BDO present the "MCO Arts Festival 2007" featuring ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and Ballet Manila in a lecture demonstration and dance concert at 7 p.m. tonight. "A Night with Lisa Macuja and Ballet Manila" will be held at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the BDO South Tower. The repertoire includes "Magandang Gabi," "Swan Lake Act II," "Arnis," "Aguila," "Sayaw sa Pamlang," "Arachnida," "Reve" and "Verdi." Performances are choreographed by Tony Fabella, Marlun Petipa, Ric Culalic, Agnes Locsin and Ernest Mandap. Tickets are available at P300 each with discounted rates for students and senior citizens. For further inquiries, call 8784359 or 8407000 local 2630.

Lyceum student missing

JONAS Reyes Loristo has been missing since Oct. 2. The 17-year-old student of the Lyceum of the Philippines is 5'4" tall, dark complexioned and was last seen wearing the school uniform: a gray polo shirt and a pair of dark pants. Please call Loristo's mother, Eden, at 3965250 or 0905-2129479 for any information on his whereabouts.


Investigation continues into how Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, died after their car crashed on August 31, 1997
Pont de l'Alma
Diana is fatally injured when her Mercedes crashes in a tunnel near the Alma bridge
Champs Elysees
Concorde
Place Vendome
Seine
Hotel Ritz
Diana, her bodyguard, Dodi Fayed and a driver leave the hotel by car
Place Vendome Hotel Ritz
Pont de l'Alma tunnel
Pitie Salpetriere hospital
0
500 m
081007 AFP

Jurors retrace Diana's final Paris journey

PARIS—JURORS IN THE British coroner's inquest into the death of Princess Diana retraced her final journey on Monday, concluding with a visit on foot to the scene of her fatal crash in a central Paris underpass.

On the first day of a two-day visit, the 11 men and women were driven by coach through the French capital, accompanied by the coroner in charge of the case—Lord Justice Scott Baker—and a team of court officials, lawyers and journalists.

At the Alma tunnel, police halted traffic as the 50-strong party descended the road on foot. They spent 15 minutes in the underpass, stopping for he longest period at the exact spot—the 13th pillar—where the accident took place.

Later in the evening they followed for a second time the route taken by Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed, who were killed along with chauffeur Henri Paul in the crash on Aug. 31, 1997.

This time they observed the crash scene by night from outside the tunnel, and spent some 20 minutes watching the patterns of traffic flow.

The inquest, which began last week, is into the circumstances of the crash. Two official investigations—in France and Britain—have concluded it was caused by speed and drunk-driving, but allegations of a secret murder plot have never been laid to rest.

The purpose of the two-day visit to Paris was to allow jurors to familiarize themselves with the scene of the accident and of events leading up to it.

After being flown to Paris on a charter jet, the jurors set off in the early afternoon from the Ritz Hotel, the property of Fayed's father, Mohamed Al-Fayed.

They were each given folders including maps and satellite images of central Paris, detailing the route taken by the Mercedes limousine and other key places.

AFP

Musharraf handpicks loyalist as successor

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf installed a loyalist and former spymaster as deputy Army chief on Monday, handpicking his successor as leader of the military in a key step to restoring civilian rule.

Gen. Ashfaq Kiyani, who has helped spearhead the fight against Taliban and al-Qaida militants and has represented the president in crunch political negotiations, took up the position on Monday with a show of military pomp.

Musharraf, a key US antiterror ally, had promised to step down as head of the Islamic republic's nuclear-armed military if he won another five-year term in a presidential election on Saturday.

He won by a landslide, but must now wait at least nine days for the Supreme Court to rule on the legality of the election by the national parliament and provincial assemblies before the result is declared official.

Kiyani, the former head of the Inter-Services Intelligence or ISI, received a guard of honor as he arrived at Army headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi near the capital Islamabad, a military statement said.

"A ceremony was held at the general headquarters to formally welcome the newly appointed vice chief of Army staff on assuming charge of the new appointment," the statement said.

AFP

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the
BARANGAY and SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS

starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 *(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)* **from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m** *(except on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight)* at the Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality.

Education and Information Department
525-9294 * 525-9301 * 527-0821 * 527-5574

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 10, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	MORNING DEW EVERGREEN FARM CORP. Brgy. San Joaquin, San Pablo City	Mr. Sangpil Lee/ Korean	Assistant Operation Manager
2.	MORNING DEW EVERGREEN FARM CORP. Brgy. San Joaquin, San Pablo City	Mr. Myunghee Kang/ Korean	Operation Manager
3.	EPSON IMAGING DEVICES (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Shojiro Takayama/ Japanese	Manufacturing Assistant General Manager
4.	ROCK INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Polin Meas/ Cambodian	Technician
5.	PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Weichi Tomiya/ Japanese	Director & Vice President
6.	USHIO PHILIPPINES, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Mitsushi Inoue Japanese	Engineering & Maintenance Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI October 10, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development No. 6
WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM
Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
(033) 523-9515

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Western Visayas Sanitarium, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project : Furnishing of various hospital supplies and equipment for the upgrading of Western Visayas Sanitarium, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo to a Secondary Level Hospital.

Brief Description : Procurement of various hospital equipment for Western Visayas Sanitarium, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo to include orientation, maintenance, installation, delivery schedule and others. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount not less than 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 4,000,000.00

I. **CATEGORY A (Medical Equipment)**	–	**Php 2,400,000.00**
a. X-Ray Machine 300 ma	–	1 unit
II. **CATEGORY B (Laboratory Equipment)**	–	**Php 290,000.00**
a. Binocular Microscope	–	1 unit
b. Microhematocrit Centrifuge	–	1 unit
III. **CATEGORY C (Operating Room Equipment)**	–	**Php 1,310,000.00**
a. Anesthesia machine	–	1 unit
b. Operating Table	–	1 unit
c. Operating Room lights	–	1 unit

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Advertisement	Oct. 10, 2007 – Oct. 16, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 18, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 19, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at WVS Conference Room
Deadline and Opening of Bids	Oct. 31, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at WVS Conference Room
Bid Evaluation	Nov. 5, 2007

Bids shall be accompanied by one percent (1%) Bidders Bond of the approved budget for the contract to be bid if in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; One and a half percent (1 ½%) if in the form of Bank Guarantee; Two and a half percent (2 ½%) if in the form of Surety Bond; and One hundred percent (100%) if in the form of Foreign Government Guarantee.

Bidders are invited to be present at the time and place stated above where the bids will be opened.

The winning bidder shall post a performance bond equivalent to 5% of the Total Contract Price for the items bidded if in the form of Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft or irrevocable letter of credit; ten percent (10%) if in the form of Bank Guarantee; thirty percent (30%) if in the form of Surety Bond and One Hundred Percent (100%) if in the form of Foreign Government Guarantee.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or accept such bids which may be considered most advantageous to the government and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids anytime prior to award of contract, without incurring any liability to the affected bidders of the grounds for WVS action.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per category to the Western Visayas Sanitarium Cashier starting October 10, 2007.

The Western Visayas Sanitarium assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) DR. ELVIRA P. SINORO
BAC Chair

(PDI–Oct. 10, 2007)

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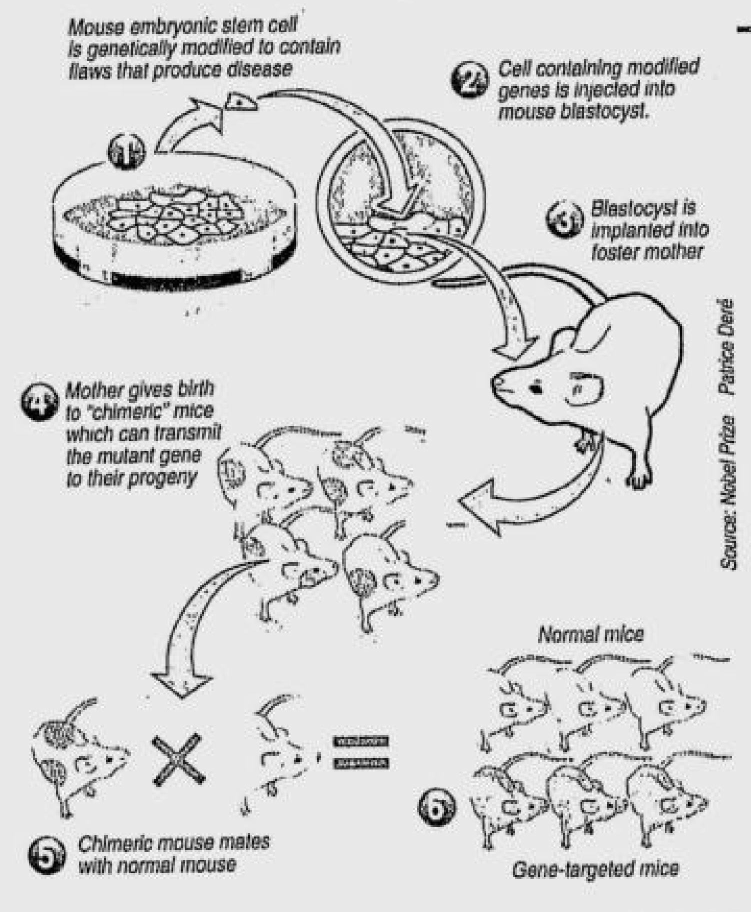
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nobel Prize for Medicine 2007

Gene targeting in mice has led to insights into diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer


Mouse embryonic stem cell is genetically modified to contain flaws that produce disease
①
② Cell containing modified genes is injected into mouse blastocyst.
③ Blastocyst is implanted into foster mother
④ Mother gives birth to "chimeric" mice which can transmit the mutant gene to their progeny
⑤ Chimeric mouse mates with normal mouse
⑥
Normal mice
Gene-targeted mice

Source: Nobel Prize Patrice Deré

081007 AFP

Three share Nobel Prize for landmark gene technique

TWO AMERICANS AND A Briton won the 2007 Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for developing the immensely powerful "knockout" technology, which allows scientists to create animal models of human disease in mice.

The winners, who will share the $1.54 million prize, are Mario R. Capecchi, 70, of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City; Oliver Smithies, 82, of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; and Sir Martin J. Evans, 66, of Cardiff University in Wales.

Other scientists are applying their technology, also known as gene targeting, in a variety of ways, from basic research to the development of new therapies, said the Nobel Committee from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm that selected the winners.

The knockout technique provided researchers with a superb new tool for finding out what any given gene does. It allows them to genetically engineer a strain of mice with the gene missing, or knocked out, then watch to see what the mice can no longer do.

After the first decoding of the mouse and human genomes in 2001 yielded thousands of new genes of unknown function, knockout mice became a prime source of information for making sense of these novel genes.

Most human genes can also be studied in this way through their counterpart genes in the mouse. Mice have been likened to pocket-size humans, because they have the same organs and their genes are about 95 percent identical in sequence. Scientists have developed more than 500 mouse models of human ailments, including those affecting the heart and central nervous system, as well as diabetes, cancer and cystic fibrosis.

Knockout mice are so important in medical research that thousands of strains are kept available in institutions like the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. *New York Times News Service*

2 car bombs kill 22 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—TWO SUICIDE CAR BOMBS KILLED at least 22 people in northern Iraq on Tuesday in attacks targeting a local police chief as well as a Sunni Arab tribal leader working with US forces to fight al-Qaida.

Tuesday's deaths come after at least 21 people were killed in car and roadside bomb attacks on Monday. In the worst attack, 10 people died when a suicide car bomber hit Monday a police station in city of Samarra, north of Baghdad.

Al-qaida in Iraq had vowed to ramp up attacks during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, specifically to target government officials and tribal leaders who had joined with the US military to combat the Sunni Islamist group.

The two suicide car bombs hit the town of Baiji, 180 kilometers north of the capital in Salahuddin province, police said.

Baiji is a major oil refining center fed with crude oil and gas from the vast fields under the nearby city of Kirkuk.

Police said one bomb targeted a mosque. The other was aimed at Baiji's police chief, Col. Saad Nifous, who was wounded in a blast at his home. Police did not immediately have a break-up of the 22 dead from the combined attacks, but they earlier said at least 10 civilians had been killed in the mosque attack.

A police source in Baiji said the target of that bombing was Hamad al-Jubouri, the Sunni Arab leader of the "Awakening" council for Salahuddin. It was unclear if Jubouri was hurt.

The councils are based on a model first used in Western Anbar province where Sunni Arab sheikhs joined with US forces to drive al-Qaida militants from much of the vast desert region.

US President George W. Bush has lauded Anbar and its improved security as an example of what could happen elsewhere in Iraq.

The province was once the heart of the Sunni Arab insurgency and the most dangerous part of Iraq for US troops. It has become much safer since tribal leaders organized young men into police units.

The US military said recently that tribal groups, also known as "Awakening" councils, were taking root in other provinces such as Salahuddin where many Sunni Arabs have remained fiercely loyal to former president Saddam Hussein.

In two other attacks in the north on Tuesday, the deputy police chief of Nineveh province was killed by gunmen in the city of Mosul and the head of police intelligence in Kirkuk was wounded in a drive-by shooting, police sources said.

The spokesperson for US troops in northern Iraq said while the Baiji police chief was all right following the attack, the condition of tribal leader Jubouri was unclear.

"This is yet another failed attempt to break the will of the Iraqi people," Lt. Col. Michael Donnelly said.

The military blames al-Qaida in Iraq for most mass-casualty attacks in the country. The group also often claims responsibility for killing officials and tribal leaders.

Al-Qaida in Iraq is largely a homegrown organization that the US military says has foreign leadership and links to the main al-Qaida network led by Osama bin Laden. *Reuters*

Britain to cut troops by over 50%

LONDON—BRITAIN IS TO CUT the number of its troops in Iraq by more than half to 2,500 from early next year, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Monday.

In a long-awaited statement to parliament, Brown said force levels would be drastically reduced as Britain hands over power of Basra province to Iraqi security forces.

Britain's troop reduction in southern Iraq has fueled talk of strains between London and Washington, although Brown has repeatedly insisted he is working closely with US President George W. Bush.

The United States, which led the invasion of Iraq in 2003 with Brown's predecessor Tony Blair as its main ally, also recently announced plans to cut its troop levels in the country.

It said it was not surprised by the British announcement, with White House spokesperson Nikki McArthur describing it as "consistent with previously announced plans." *AFP*

Cuba honors Che Guevara 40 years after death

SANTA CLARA—COMMUNIST CUBA PAID tribute on Monday to its poster boy, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, 40 years after the guerrilla fighter was captured and executed in Bolivia.

The man he helped to power in Cuba's 1959 revolution, Fidel Castro, was too ill to attend a memorial rally at the mausoleum where Guevara's remains were placed when they were dug up from an unmarked Bolivian grave in 1997.

Castro instead marked the anniversary in a newspaper column that was read out at the rally, saying the Argentine-born doctor sowed the seeds of social conscience in Latin America and the world.

"I halt in my day-to-day combat to bow my head, with respect and gratitude, before the exceptional fighter who fell 40 years ago," Castro wrote.

Guevara was captured by CIA-backed Bolivian soldiers on Oct. 8, 1967, and was shot the next day in a schoolhouse. His body, eyes wide open, was put on display in a hospital laundry room and later buried in an unmarked grave. He was 39.

About 10,000 Cuban workers and students gathered on Monday before a bronze statue of Guevara carrying a rifle in Santa Clara, the city in central Cuba that Guevara "liberated" in 1958 in the decisive battle of the Cuban revolution.

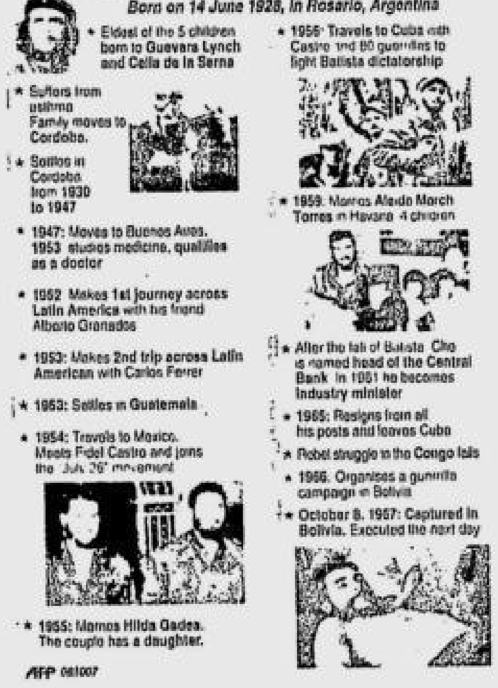
Guevara remains a national hero in Cuba, remembered for promoting unpaid voluntary work by toiling shirtless on building sites or hauling sacks of sugar. He still appears on banknotes cutting sugar cane in the fields.

He was central bank governor and industry minister in the early years of Castro's rule, but he left Cuba in 1966 to start a new anti-US rebellion in the jungle of eastern Bolivia, hoping to create "two, three, many Vietnams" in Latin America.

Posters of the long-haired Guevara wearing a soldier's beret with a single star turned the revolutionary outlaw into a 20th Century icon and symbol of rebellion. *Reuters*

Che Guevara: the legend lives on

Born on 14 June 1928, in Rosario, Argentina


★ Eldest of the 5 children born to Guevara Lynch and Celia de la Serna
★ Suffers from asthma Family moves to Cordoba.
★ Settles in Cordoba from 1930 to 1947
★ 1947: Moves to Buenos Aires. 1953 studies medicine, qualifies as a doctor
★ 1952 Makes 1st journey across Latin America with his friend Alberto Granados
★ 1953: Makes 2nd trip across Latin American with Carlos Ferrer
★ 1953: Settles in Guatemala
★ 1954: Travels to Mexico. Meets Fidel Castro and joins the "July 26" movement
★ 1955: Marries Hilda Gadea. The couple has a daughter.
★ 1956: Travels to Cuba with Castro and 80 guerrillas to fight Batista dictatorship
★ 1959: Marries Aleida March Torres in Havana. 4 children
★ After the fall of Batista Che is named head of the Central Bank. In 1961 he becomes industry minister
★ 1965: Resigns from all his posts and leaves Cuba
★ Rebel struggle in the Congo fails
★ 1966: Organises a guerrilla campaign in Bolivia
★ October 8, 1967: Captured in Bolivia. Executed the next day

AFP 081007

Burma's military junta names negotiator for Suu Kyi talks

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANmar's) military junta has appointed a deputy minister to negotiate with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on the regime's offer of direct talks, state television said on Monday.

Aung Kyi, a major general who became deputy labor minister last year, would "make contact and deal with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the future," MRTV said, without giving further details.

After the largest anti-junta protests in nearly 20 years, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, whose loathing for Suu Kyi is well known, offered direct talks if she abandoned "confrontation" and support for sanctions and "utter devastation." There was no reaction from Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy to Aung Kyi's appointment. But NLD spokesperson Nyan Win has said Than Shwe's offer could lead to talks about talks.

Analysts caution against optimism as hopes of change in the past have been dashed so often.

"It's too early to assess this gambit by the regime," a retired professor said. "It comes at a time of mounting pressure from the international community. We need to wait for further movement." There has been no word from Suu Kyi, 62, who has spent 12 of the past 18 years in detention and is confined to her house in Yangon without a telephone and requiring official permission, granted rarely, to receive visitors.

The New Light of Burma, the general's official mouthpiece, suggested on Monday that Suu Kyi would remain under house arrest until a new constitution was approved—a dim and distant prospect, according to most analysts.

It also gave short shrift to the demands of the thousands who joined last month's protests crushed by the regime.

"The three demands of the protesters—lowering consumer prices, release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and political prisoners, and national reconciliation—cannot be satisfied through protest," the paper said in a commentary.

"Now, those responsible are making arrangements to draft the state constitution and collect the list of voters," it added.

"When the state constitution is approved, the fulfillment of the three demands will be within reach." *Reuters*

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[2] A 2% loyalty bonus is paid out at the end of the 10th year and every 5 years hence.

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WHAT'S INSIDE
So still leads despite draw with tough GM /A30

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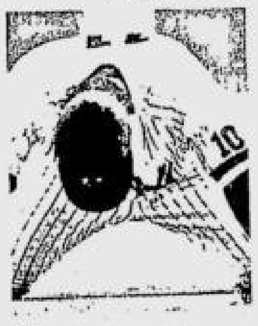
Indians send Yankees packing /A31



₱308-M payday for Pacquiao

By the Inquirer Sports Desk

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACquiao earned a whopping $7 million (P308 million) from his recent fight with Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera, according to a source close to the Filipino ring celebrity.

The source, who is part of Pacquiao's entourage in the United States, said the hard-hitting southpaw collected as much as $3 million in prize money, $2 million from United States pay-per-view sales and another $2 million from his share of the local pay-per-view pie.

The fight's co-promoters, Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions, officially pegged Pacquiao's fight purse at $2 million.

The source, however, said Pacquiao was assured of an amount "very close to $3 million" after his abrupt decision to train for the Barrera fight in Cebu two months ago.

Meanwhile, the Pacman could be headed to more mega-buck bouts, triggering a scramble among a slew of elite fighters to book a ticket opposite the Filipino.

Another Team Pacquiao source said there are plans to increase to at least four per year the number of times he fights in the next two years. And the cash windfall he normally gets from his fights could turn into a hurricane.

MANNY Pacquiao enters the Mandalay Bay arena in Saturday's "Will to Win" fight already assured of $7 million in earnings, the INQUIRER has learned. Fights in the lightweight class could earn him $5 million purses. AP

The leading candidate as Pacquiao's next foe, though, is World Boxing Council lightweight champ David Diaz.

"I would like to go up to the 135-lb division and challenge David Diaz for his WBC title," Pacquiao told Filipino reporters after a Mass was said Monday inside his suite on the 61st floor of The Hotel at the Mandalay Bay.

"Then I could go down anytime to 130-pounds to fight anybody," he added, opening the doors to a possible rematch with WBC super featherweight king Juan Manuel Marquez.

It is the fight against Diaz, though, that promises a hefty payday for the Pacman.

Former Pacquiao manager Shelley Finkel said—after the Filipino won his match against Erik Morales in November last year—that hurdling Barrera would serve as the Pacman's ticket to multimillion fight deals. He also said Pacquiao could be eligible for $5 million paydays.

The other fighters who want to be Pacquiao's next foe include WBA superfeatherweight champ Edwin Valero, WBO superfeatherweight king Joan Guzman, WBA lightweight champ Juan Diaz, WBO lightweight king Michael Katsidis, and even WBA featherweight champ Chris John of Indonesia. *With a report from Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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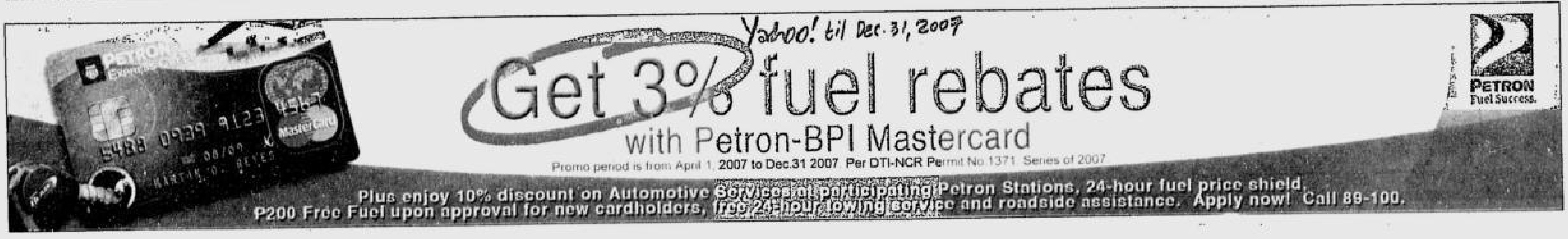

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Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PROPAGANDA IN CONNECTION WITH THE SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 29, 2007

BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Acting Chairman
TUASON, Florentino Jr., A.,	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

x-------------------------------------x Promulgated: 8 October 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8320

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9006, Republic Act No. 9164 and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following rules and regulations governing election campaign and propaganda in connection with the Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on October 29, 2007.

I. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

SECTION 1. *Campaign period.* – The campaign period for the October 29, 2007 elections shall be October 19, 2007 to October 27, 2007.

SECTION 2. *What constitutes "election campaign" or "partisan political activity."* – The term "election campaign" or "partisan political activity" refers to an act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office. It shall include:

(a) Forming organizations, associations, clubs, committees, or other groups of persons for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate:

(b) Holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades, or other similar assemblies for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign or propaganda for or against a candidate;

(c) Making speeches, announcements, or commentaries or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate for public office;

(d) Publishing or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or

(e) Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against a candidate.

SECTION 3. *Lawful election propaganda.* – Only the following campaign propaganda shall be allowed:

(a) Handwritten or printed letters not exceeding 8½ inches in width and 14 inches in length; and

(b) Posters of a size not exceeding 2 feet by 3 feet.

During the campaign period, it is illegal to remove, destroy, obliterate, or in any manner deface or tamper with, or prevent the distribution of lawful election propaganda.

SECTION 4. *Common Poster Area.* – The Election Officer shall, not later than October 12, 2007, designate in each barangay not more than ten (10) common poster areas wherein candidates may place, display or exhibit their campaign posters. The common poster area shall be erected in a public place such as plazas, markets, barangay centers and the like, at the expense of the candidates availing of the poster area. The common poster area shall not exceed twelve (12) by sixteen (16) feet or its equivalent.

Candidates shall be allowed to post only one (1) poster in every common poster area.

The Election Officer shall, not later than October 18, 2007, submit to the Law Department a list of designated common poster areas.

SECTION 5. *Transportation, foods and drinks.* – It is illegal for any person to give or accept, free of charge, directly or indirectly, transportation, food or drinks or things of value during the five (5) hours before and after a barangay assembly meeting or other authorized public forum, on the day preceding the election and on election day; or to give or contribute, directly or indirectly, money or things of value for such purpose.

SECTION 6. *Prohibited raising of funds.* – It is illegal for any person to hold dances, lotteries, cockfights, games, boxing, bingo, beauty contests, entertainments, or cinematographic, theatrical or other performances for the purpose of raising funds for an election campaign or for the support of any candidate from the commencement of the election period up to and including election day, or for any person or organization, whether civic or religious, directly or indirectly to solicit and/or accept from any candidate or from his campaign manager, agent or representative, or from any person acting in his behalf, any gift, food, transportation, contribution, or donation in cash or in kind during the same period. Normal and customary religious stipends, tithes, or collections on Sunday and/or other designated collection days are excluded from this prohibition.

SECTION 7. *Prohibited donations by candidates or their agents.* – No candidate, his or her spouse or any relative within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or his campaign manager, agent or representative, shall, from the start of the campaign period up to election day, directly or indirectly, make any donation, contribution, gift in cash or in kind, or undertake or contribute to the construction or repair of roads, bridges, shoolhouses, puericulture centers, medical clinics and hospitals, churches or chapels, cement pavements, or any structure for public use or for the use of any religious or civic organization. Periodic payments for legitimate scholarships established, and school contributions habitually made, before the prohibited period are excluded from the prohibition.

SECTION 8. *Limitation upon expenses of candidates.* – No candidate shall spend for his election campaign an aggregate amount exceeding Three Pesos (P3.00) for every registered voter in the barangay where he seeks to be elected.

SECTION 9. *Statement of contributions and expenditures.* – Every candidate shall, within ten (10) days after the election, file, in duplicate, with the Office of the Election Officer where he filed his certificate of candidacy a full, true and itemized statement of all contributions and expenditures in connection with the election.

Within five (5) days from the date of the election, the Election Officer shall advise in writing personally or by registered mail all candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy with his office to comply with the above requirement.

Within five (5) days after the last day for the filing of statements, the Election Officer shall transmit to the ERSD, COMELEC, Manila, duplicate copies of all the statements filed with his office.

No person elected to any public office shall enter upon the duties of his office until he has filed the statement of contributions and expenditures herein required.

SECTION 10. *Forms and contents of statement.* – The Statement of Contributions and Expenditures shall be in writing, supported by receipts and other documents, subscribed and sworn to by the candidate, and shall set forth in detail the following:

a. The amount of every contribution, the date of receipt and the full name and exact address of the person from whom the contribution was received;

b. The amount of every expenditure, the date thereof, the full name and exact address of the person to who each payment was made and the purpose of the expenditures; and

c. Any unpaid obligation, its nature and amount and to whom said obligation is owing.

If the candidate received no contribution, made no expenditure, or has no pending obligation, such fact shall be reflected in the Statement.

SECTION 11. *Preservation and inspection of statement.* – All Statements of Contributions and Expenditures shall be kept and preserved at the office where they are filed and shall constitute part of the public records for three (3) years after election. They shall not be removed thereat except upon order of the Commission or of a competent court and shall, during regular office hours, be open to inspection by the public. On written demand, certified copies of any statement may be furnished upon payment of the prescribed fees.

II. NON-PARTISAN CHARACTER OF THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTION

SECTION 12. *Prohibition against intervention by political party, coalition of political parties, or any other organization.* – No person who files a certificate of candidacy shall represent or allow himself to be represented as a candidate of any political party or any other organization; and no political party, political group, political committee, civic, religious, professional, or other organization or organized group of whatever nature shall intervene in his nomination or in the filing of his certificate of candidacy or give aid or support, directly or indirectly, material of otherwise, favorable to or against his campaign for election: Provided, That this provision shall not apply to the members of the family of the candidate within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity nor to the personal campaign staff of the candidate in his barangay; Provided, however, That without prejudice to any liability that may be incurred, no permit to hold a public meeting shall be denied on the ground that the provisions of this paragraph may or will be violated.

Nothing in this Section, however, shall be construed as in any manner affecting or constituting an impairment of the freedom of individuals to support or oppose a candidate for any barangay office.

Violation of this Section by any political party, group, or coalition of political parties shall be a ground for the cancellation of its registration with the Commission.

SECTION 13. *Barangay assembly.* – During the campaign period, the punong barangay or any kagawad who is not a candidate, or any resident of the barangay of known probity designated by the Election Officer, shall upon prior notice of at least (2) days, convene the barangay assembly at least one to allow all the candidates for Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan to explain to the barangay voters their qualifications, programs of administration and other information that may enlighten the voters their candidates. The members of the barangay assembly may discuss other matters relative to the election of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials.

The order in which the candidate shall speak shall be determined by raffle under the supervision of the barangay official or registered voter who called the meeting. Each candidate shall be allotted equal time.

SECTION 14. *Public forum.* – During the campaign period, non-political, non-partisan private or civic organizations may hold in any barangay a public forum at which forum all candidates for barangay and sangguniang kabataan offices shall be invited in writing to present their platforms or programs of government and other relevant issues. The invitations shall specify the date, time and place of the public forum.

The order in which the candidates shall speak shall be determined by raffle. Each candidate shall be allocated equal time.

The sponsoring organization shall furnish the Election Officer concerned with a copy of the schedule of the forum.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* – This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SECTION 16. *Dissemination.* – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and furnish copies thereof to all field offices of the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUASON JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI–October 10, 2007)

So still leads despite draw with tough GM

Standings after round 6:
5.0 points—**IM Wesley So (RP)**, GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt); 4.5—GM Wang Hao (China), GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic), IM Avetik Grigoryan (Armenia), IM Gopal Narayanan (India), Jayaram Ashwin (Armenia)

WESLEY SO: Nears full GM result

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Wesley So agreed to a quick draw with German Grandmaster Georg Meier late Monday and settled for a share of the lead with Egyptian GM Ahmed Adley after six rounds of the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

Handling black, So (Elo 2531) split the point with the ninth-ranked Meier (Elo 2558) after just 14 moves of a Sicilian Defense-Rosollimo variation to boost his total to 5.0 points, the same output of Adley, who beat American IM Hrant Melkumyan in 41 moves of a Double Fianchetto Opening.

So, who turned 14 years old Monday, and Adley (Elo 2494) will tangle in the seventh round Tuesday with the Filipino needing a win to earn a GM result, according to computations made by officials of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Even if he fails, So can still gain his second GM result after the ninth or 11th rounds or even earn an outright GM title by topping the 13-round tournament confined to the world's leading players 20 years or younger.

With 4.5 points, Meier shared third spot with top-seeded Chinese GM Wang Hao, Israeli GM Maxim Rodshtein, GM Daniel Stellwagen of the Netherlands, GM Victor Laznicka of the Czech Republic, IM Avetik Grigoryan of Armenia, GM-elect Gopal Narayanan of India and Jayaram Ashwin of Armenia.

In the distaff side, Woman IM Vera Nebolsina of Russia posted her sixth straight victory by dumping WGM Sanjay Karavade of India.

Filipino WNM Aices Salvador beat Ani Darbinyan to rise to 3.0 points.

Meanwhile, four Filipino players who were suspended early this year due to their alleged involvement in game-fixing have been reinstated in the RP-Fide ratings for October.

They were No. 5 GM-elect Darwin Laylo (2508), No. 12 IM Ronald Dableo (2451), No. 16 FM Oliver Barbosa (2420) and No. 27 IM Chito Garma (2396).

The ban on the players was lifted on orders of NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. before the recent 2007 Asian Continental Chess Championships in Mandaue City.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

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Pagulayan rules Canada Tour tilt

FORMER WORLD POOL CHAMPION ALEX Pagulayan won his third major title this year by demolishing Canadian Tyler Edey, 11-5, in the finals of the Canadian 9-Ball Tour leg in Newmarket, Ontario, on Sunday.

The Cabagan, Isabela, native pocketed $5,000 (P220,000) for the victory in the 94-player field that included fellow former world champions Ralf Souquet of Germany and Marcus Chamat of Sweden and Fil-Canadian Edwin Montal, last year's champion.

The diminutive cue artist from the Puyat Sports stable topped the 17th Japan 9-Ball Open last February in Tokyo, trouncing Taiwanese Ro-Li Wen, 9-6, in the finals to capture the top prize of 1.5 million yen.

Pagulayan then beat Shane Van Boening, 7-5, to top the World Summit of Pool in Las Vegas, Nevada last June. The victory was worth $12,000. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Bataan Ecomonic Zone

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY – BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Php 13,466,287.12** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **Security Services for the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ)** located at BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. The PEZA-BEZ now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the above mentioned contract as described below:

Brief Description: Supply of Personnel, Equipment, implements, Supplies and Supervision
Contract Duration: One (1) calendar year
Delivery Period: Within 15 days after Notice to Proceed

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS (ITB).**

3. Prospective bidders shall submit together with the other eligibility requirements proofs of ownership or lease contracts for the required vehicles and equipment as listed in the T.O.R.

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to "Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, or to citizens of or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA-BEZ and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from October 12 to 19, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from the address below upon submission of a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** and a certified copy of their **Phil GEPS Registration Certificate** and the **BIR e-fps Enrollment Certificate** upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos only (Php 10,000.00). The method of payment will be on a **cash basis** only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

7. The PEZA-BEZ will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 26, 2007 2:00 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.

8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 P.M. of November 09, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of not less than Php 134,662.87, Bank Guarantee in the amount of not less than Php 201,994.30 or in the form of Surety Bond in the amount of not less than Php 336,657.17. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

9. Bid opening shall be on November 09, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day

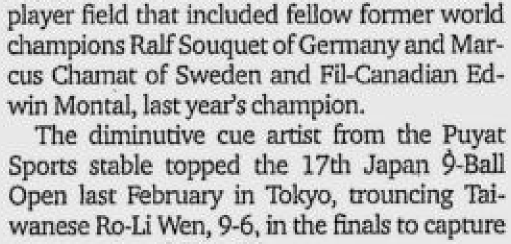
11. The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority-BEZ
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
EMD Office,Ground Floor, BEZ
Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. No. (047) 935-4008/Fax No. (047) 935-6046
E-mail: bez_bac1@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
BEZ-BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DANTE M. QUINDOZA**
Zone Administrator

(PDI–October 10 & 19, 2007)



KOOKIE Ramirez (left) keeps Jody Coseteng at bay late in the race en route to his first victory of the season at the Subic International Raceway.

Kookie foils Jody in Subic PTCC races

SUBIC—KOOKIE RAMIREZ OF PETRON-SRA ended a string of runner-up finishes by topping the fifth leg of the 2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship at the Subic International Raceway recently.

The inclement weather, water-logged track and the expanded grid of 19 cars made the weekend race one of the season's toughest.

Ramirez dealt defending champion Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer his second defeat of the year.

Due to the weather, organizers combined all 19 cars in both groups 1 and 3 in one race.

Coseteng, third on the grid behind Louis Ramirez and Dennis Uy of Valvoline-Velocity in the morning race, took the lead for good in the 10th lap as Uy pitted due to engine trouble.

But the scenario changed in the afternoon race as Kookie Ramirez, who was third in the morning, grabbed the lead in the second lap with Coseteng, Uly Maningding and Louis Ramirez close behind.

The four Group 1 drivers later got entangled with the backmarkers in Group 3, causing a change of positions in the sixth lap.

Maningding wrested the lead briefly as Coseteng spun out and slipped to fourth before Kookie Ramirez grabbed the front to stay in the eighth lap. Coseteng passed Maningding in the final lap for runner-up honors.

SJC stagfest fifth round today

THE FIFTH AND LAST ELIMINATION ROUND OF the SM Farms Open 6-Stag Derby gets going at 1 p.m. today at San Juan Coliseum with at least 100 fights backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The stagfest, hosted by Sam Mendoza, Boy Torres and Doc Jovy, has drawn a record field of more than 300 entries. The champions, set to receive a guaranteed prize of P2.5 million, will be known Saturday. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 0917-8070667.

Indians send Yankees packing

NEW YORK—ONCE GRADY SIZEMORE HIT a leadoff home run, the Cleveland Indians were headed to the American League title series while the New York Yankees were braced for a showdown with their boss.

Paul Byrd and the Indians bullpen closed out New York, 6-4, in Game 4 Monday night, completing another first-round debacle for the Yankees that might cost manager Joe Torre his job.

The Yankees came in streaking, overcoming a 21-29 start to win the AL wild card. But they were done in by poor pitching, an insect invasion and the latest October vanishing act by Alex Rodriguez, whose bat was quiet until a solo home run in the seventh inning.

The pesky Indians, who wasted a three-run lead in Game 3, chased Chien-Ming Wang in the second and burst ahead 4-0. Byrd kept wiggling out of trouble, and Victor Martinez's two-run single made it 6-1 in the fourth against reliever Mike Mussina.

A day after averting a sweep, New York put runners on in each of the first seven innings. But when it counted, its high-octane offense fell flat once again, with late homers by Rodriguez and Bobby Abreu not enough.

Cleveland moves on to its first ALCS since 1998, opening Friday night at Boston. The Indians were only 2-5 against the Red Sox this season, but will have aces CC Sabathia and Fausto Carmona rested for Fenway Park.

The Indians are seeking their first World Series title since 1948. The NL championship series starts Thursday night with the Colorado Rockies at the Arizona Diamondbacks.

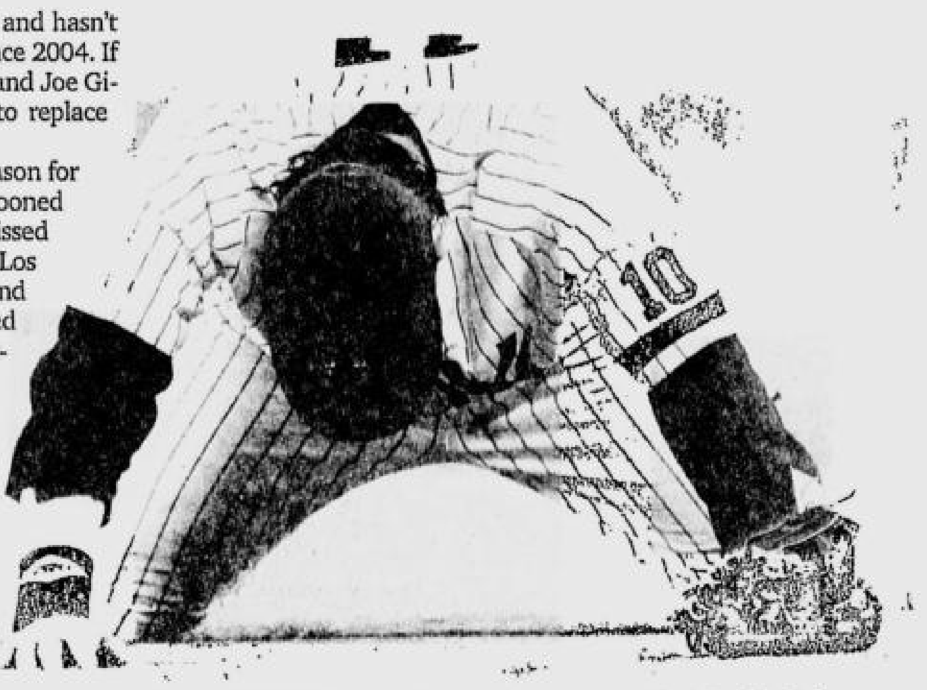
Bewildered New York opens yet another offseason of turmoil, another October over nearly as soon as it began. All eyes will be on owner George Steinbrenner, who said over the weekend that he didn't think he'd keep Torre as manager if New York bowed with another early exit.

Torre managed the Yankees to four World Series titles in his first five years and reached the playoffs in all 12 of his seasons. Yet, that might not be enough for Steinbrenner, impatient his team of multimillionaires has gone seven years in a row with no title and hasn't even gotten past the first round since 2004. If Torre does depart, Don Mattingly and Joe Girardi are the leading candidates to replace him.

Cleveland completed a sorry season for New York's teams—the Mets swooned with 12 losses in 17 games and missed the playoffs entirely. And with the Los Angeles Angels, Chicago Cubs and Philadelphia Phillies also knocked out in the first round, television ratings could take a dive.

It was 87 degrees at game time—the hottest Oct. 8 ever in New York City—and the Indians applied heat right from the start.

Wang, battered for eight runs in New York's opening 12-3 loss, was chased after just three outs—the shortest start of the 27-year-old's short career. *AP*



THE YANKEES' Doug Mientkiewicz sums up New York's feelings. AP

Mexico's Barrerun backpedals into the sunset

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—MEXICO'S MARCO Antonio Barrera should've put up a fighting final stand instead of dance that cutesy waltz to the sunset last Saturday.

Rather than endlessly retreat, he should've figured in a screaming farewell shootout, with both fists blazing, against Manny Pacquiao in the Nevada Desert.

Sorry, but it was only after having successfully avoided a brutal confrontation that Barrera was able to leave the prizefight stage with his handsome profile intact.

The war script, written with the blood and tears of Emiliano Zapata Julio Cesar Chavez, called for a yours-or-mine, no-tomorrow slugout.

* * *

You know what?

If Pacquiao, certified fearless warrior, had, say, done something 'resembling the cheap manner Barrera had run his way to retirement, the Filipino superstar would've surely gotten more than his share of rotten tomatoes from adoring countrymen.

But, wow, instead of jeers, Barrera received a big ovation for his soft, indecisive stand before gullible countrymen in Las Vegas last Saturday.

Yes, Barrera got applauded despite having unwittingly given Mexican machismo a sissy ring to it.

* * *

To uphold the degeneration, there was the great Oscar De La Hoya to embrace Barrera with a wild ovation as he entered the over-filled media hall at Mandalay Bay Hotel nearly an hour after his bout with Pacquiao.

It's not easy to determine how Golden Boy wove the magic.

It was a final scene out of great Indian-Cowboy war movies.

There, all of a sudden, was the hero, whom De La Hoya would refer to as Gran Campeon, aglow, beaming like a debutante, under the blinding pop and flash of cameras.

Barrera also wore his red badge of courage—a tiny wound under his puffed left eye.

* * *

His handler, Tony Rivera, would proudly claim that, if not for a headbutt, Barrera would've finished the bout clean, unscathed.

What headbutt? What did he mean clean?

For the record, Pacquiao tried his best to play it clean all throughout.

It was however Barrera who had to bend truly low when he sneaked in a foul right hand off a break.

This was late in the 11th round, Pacquiao had just had just ripped in a thunder-clap combination, and it had become clear that, if not for the dirty shot that merited a point deduction, Barrera would've been crushed cold.

* * *

Anyway, these sordid details should've been similarly flushed off together with all the pre-fight debris.

But, come to think of it, didn't Barrera also make claims earlier that Filipinos would be in for a shock?

Well, Barrera may have indeed been better prepared on Saturday than when he got mangled by Pacquiao in Texas four years ago.

But as to the claim that his one-sided loss at Mandalay Bay had sufficiently plucked the thorn in his side planted by Pacquiao following that 11th round knockout, Barrera is hereby advised to check again.

* * *

It's like this. Barrera on Saturday survived another ordeal without having to beg on his knees.

Great. But did he really put up a gallant, noble fight?

The answer would be properly provided by a small group of chanting Filipino fans in the upper box section, who also succeeded in re-Christening the once fearless Barrera.

There were deafening cries of Barre-RUN, Barre-RUN, Barre-RUN, from the Filipino group under the baton of real estate expert Ferdi Dalope, as the rounds wore on.

Marco, the Baby-faced Assassin, was shocking enough as he earned a new name while back-pedalling to the final sunset of an otherwise glorious career.

Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

Exchange Visitor Program Committee in the Philippines

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2007

REINSTITUTING THE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN LIEU OF THE TWO-YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) Committee in the Philippines is mandated to promulgate policies, rules and regulations to implement Philippine participation in the program;

WHEREAS, the EVP Committee issued Resolution No. 02-2006, "Removal of Alternative Arrangements in Lieu of the Two-Year Home-Country Physical Presence Requirement" in September 2006 which removed the alternative arrangement as one of the criteria for the issuance of a No Objection Statement;

WHEREAS, the EVP Committee recognized the need to ensure that the Philippines benefits from its participation in the EVP without jeopardizing the opportunity of Filipino EVP participants for self-actualization;

WHEREAS, the EVP Committee agreed to re-adopt the policy of exploring alternative arrangements for the transfer and build-up of knowledge and technology in lieu of the two-year home-country physical presence requirement under the EVP;

RESOLVED THEREFORE, that the EVP Committee hereby reinstitutes the alternative arrangement as one of the criteria for the issuance of a No Objection Statement, reinstating and amending therefore sections 15 to 18 of the Guidelines and Procedures on the Waiver of the Two-Year Home-Country Residency Requirement for Exchange Visitor Program Participants as follows:

Section 15. Alternative Arrangement

If the reasons of the applicant do not fall within the criteria set for the granting of NOS, and the applicant has presented valid and reasonable justifications for his / her request, the EVP Committee may require the applicant to submit the following additional supporting documents as appropriate for further evaluation:

a. Curriculum vitae
b. Conditional letter of offer from the training institution in the US, and certifying the participant's good standing; and
c. Proof of income of the family being supported in the Philippines.

After evaluating said additional requirements, the EVP Committee may offer the alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year home-residency requirement, which shall require the EVP participant to undertake a project with two components involving (1) developing and implementing a transfer of technology project and (2) sponsorship of an enhancement training for an identified beneficiary in their particular field of expertise. The project proposal must benefit a particular sector and address national priorities as provided for in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan or as identified by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 16. Procedures for Alternative Arrangement

The procedure and requirements in the processing and evaluation of NOS applications under the alternative arrangement are as follows:

I. Project Proposal

a. Within 30 days from receipt of notification from the EVP Committee, the applicant shall initially submit a project proposal (2 copies) to the EVP Committee Secretariat;

b. The project proposal must identify a Philippine government agency or private institution with the proper recommendation of the agency concerned, which shall serve as partner or counterpart institution. The partner institution shall assist in the implementation of the project and assess its impact against the objective of technology and knowledge transfer. Only proposals that have been endorsed by the head of the identified partner agency/institution or his/her duly authorized representative shall be reviewed and processed by the EVP Committee. For proposals involving lectures / seminars / workshops, the project must be implemented for 5 days (equivalent to 40 hours) with at least 30 qualified participants. For teachers, the project must also be implemented on a division level.

c. The EVP Committee Secretariat shall circulate the project proposal, with the partner agency endorsement, to the EVP Committee for technical evaluation. The EVP Committee may also seek the technical review of other non-member agencies or institutions to determine possible benefits of the project proposal vis-a-vis the objectives of technology transfer.

d. The EVP Committee shall inform the applicant of any action regarding his/her project proposal. The applicant shall be expected to respond or make appropriate revisions on the proposal, if required. After the proposal has been approved in a technical review, the applicant shall submit the final version of his/her proposal in eleven (11) copies to the EVP Committee Secretariat for onward transmittal to the other members of the EVP Committee.

e. The approved project proposal shall be covered by a memorandum of agreement to be signed by the applicant, the partner institution, and the representative of the EVP Committee to ensure commitment of the parties involved to implement the project. Prior to implementation, the applicant must notify the EVP Committee Secretariat about the details of his / her implementation (i.e., dates, time and venue) for monitoring purposes.

f. The Project Implementation must be conducted physically by the EVP participant applying for NOS.

II. Enhancement Training Sponsorship Project

a. After the EVP Committee's approval of the project proposal, the EVP participant shall transfer the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred US Dollars ($1,500.00) to the EVP Committee through the CFO's trust account as sponsorship for the enhancement training of an identified beneficiary in their particular field of expertise.

Account name: Commission on Filipinos Overseas
Account no: 000012-1149-23
Swift Code: TLBPPHMMA
Bank name: Land Bank of the Philippines
Branch: Intramuros, Manila

b. The EVP participant shall designate the EVP Committee as its authorized representative in coordinating with the beneficiaries on all matters pertaining to his / her involvement in the enhancement training sponsorship.

c. The EVP Committee, through the CFO, shall serve as fund manager and shall implement the enhancement training sponsorship project following the guidelines of the CFO's Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) or Link for Philippine Development Program.

d. The EVP participant shall identify a qualified beneficiary that shall receive the sponsorship. If he / she does not know of a beneficiary, he / she may seek assistance from the EVP Committee.

e. The EVP Committee, through the CFO, shall coordinate with the identified beneficiary. A Memorandum of Agreement shall be executed between the EVP participant, EVP Committee and the beneficiary, defining the responsibilities of the parties involved.

f. The CFO, in behalf of the EVP Committee, shall be responsible for the disbursement of funds to the beneficiary as well monitoring the performance of the beneficiary. The EVP Committee, through the CFO, shall submit reports on the implementation of the project to the EVP participant.

g. The EVP Committee shall not assume further obligation or responsibility to the EVP participant in regard to his / her status in the United States beyond the issuance of a No Objection Statement to the waiver of the two-year home-country residency requirement.

Sec. 17. Project Proposal Format

The format for the project proposal is as follows:

a. Project Title. This section should reflect the title/name by which the project will be officially referred to

b. Rationale. This section should include the current status of the particular sector/institution in the Philippines relative to the expertise or technology to be introduced by the project, including the need for the expertise or technology being offered. The projected benefits to a particular sector(s)/institution(s) in the Philippines must be clearly stated. This section should also introduce the field of expertise of the exchange visitor, i.e. academic background, professional experience, professional affiliations, etc., and elaborate on the reasons for the choice of the project relative to the exchange visitor's field of expertise and to the objectives of the EVP.

c. Objectives. This section should contain the general and specific objectives of the proposed undertaking.

d. Project Description. This section should contain the background of the project. It must define the specific elements of the project and how these are expected to contribute to the realization of the major objectives and specific results. The project description should discuss the kind of input or contributions that the volunteer will be delivering in the course of his or her volunteer work. Project viability and sustainability must also be described in this section.

e. Operation/Methodology. This section should describe the steps or stages for the implementation or conduct of the project. It must elaborate on how the transfer of technology/knowledge to a particular sector/institution in the Philippines will be effected. If the proponent will be collaborating with local or international institutions, this section should explain how these institutions will be helping in the project, the respective roles of the proponent and the collaborating institution, as well as the funding sources.

f. Projected Output/End Results. This section should reflect specific projected outputs/results or outcomes of the project, which must be expressed in quantifiable/measurable and qualitative terms, as well as ways by which to sustain the benefits of the project. This section should also clearly state the target beneficiaries of the project.

g. Inputs and Budget. Major inputs required for the production of outputs should be presented on a table format. It should specify organizations, equipment, services and travel if applicable. The total cost of the project should be indicated, including the funding details.

h. Project Evaluation and Monitoring. This section should include the mechanics/scheme for the evaluation and monitoring of the project. The indicators for the evaluation have to be clearly specified.

i. Timeline. This section should provide the detail of the duration for each of the stages in the implementation of the project, including the specific year/date when the project proposal is to be started and completed. Project proposals must be implementable within two (2) years, and must include at least one (1) working visit of the proponent in the Philippines in connection with the project.

j. References. At least three local and three overseas references with their street and/or postal addresses and telephone numbers should be indicated under this section.

k. Other Requirements. A transmittal request/letter should accompany the project proposal.

Sec. 18. Project Monitoring and Approval of Application

The exchange visitor who has been offered the alternative arrangement is expected to work with his/her partner institutions in the Philippines for the implementation/completion of his/her project proposal.

a. The EVP Committee shall monitor activities in connection with the implementation of projects under the alternative arrangements.

b. The proponent and partner institution shall submit a terminal report (11 copies) detailing the outcome/results of the project. The applicant shall also be required to submit a project module (5 copies) to the EVP Committee Secretariat, for approval, within thirty (30) days after completion of the project. The module is intended to serve as a guide for private and public institutions that may wish to replicate the project in the future.

The approval of the terminal report by the EVP Committee shall serve as basis for the granting of the No Objection Statement to the EVP participant. The EVP Committee shall inform the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. of the approval of the NOS, for endorsement to the US Department of State.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the alternative arrangement shall only be offered to qualified EVP participants until such time that the Committee has approved a reintegration scheme for returning EVP participants who have completed their exchange program.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of August 2007 during the 68th regular meeting of the EVP Committee in Manila, Philippines.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY REY A. CARANDANG
Department of Foreign Affairs

ASST. SECRETARY MINERVA TAN
Office of the President

DIRECTOR MA. VIRGINIA G. ALA
Department of Health

ASST. SECRETARY MARIO P. BRAVO
Department of Science and Technology

ASST. SECRETARY TERESITA INCIONG
Department of Education

DIRECTOR FELICITAS Q. BAY
Department of Labor and Employment

DEPUTY DIR. GEN. ROLANDO TUNGPALAN
National Economic Development Authority

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Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Leonor T. Rosero
CHAIRPERSON LEONOR T. ROSERO
Professional Regulation Commission

ACT. EXEC. DIR. JENNIFER O. GONZALES
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

(PDI – October 10, 2007)

Cordero, Polero rip Asian U-14 net foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEEDED FILIPINO STANDOUT Kyle Cordero handily hurdled compatriot Isaiah Dandan but it was the stunning triumph of Tim Polero over a fifth-seeded Bruneian that stole the limelight yesterday in the first round of the Asian 14-under tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The No. 8-ranked Cordero whitewashed Dandan, 6-0, 6-0, to join seven other RP bets, including Polero—who sizzled in the afternoon rain with a 6-3, 6-1 upset of Abdul Rashman Janahi—in the next round.

Cordero, a high school freshman at Colegio San Agustin and the reigning Palarong Pambansa champion, next faces Leander Lazaro, who dumped Albert Villamor, 6-3, 6-1.

Polero, whose twin brother Kim also advanced to the next round, refused to get intimidated by his more seasoned rival, unleashing a steady baseline game to wear down Janahi.

He will take on Enrique Gabriel Ferrer, a 6-0, 6-1 victor over Rafael Squillantini.

Kim marched to the second round after bundling out John Arnel Go, 7-5, 6-2.

Other Filipino victors were Bernadine Siso, Enrique Gabriel Ferrer, Angelo Joseph Rivero, Leander Lazaro and Arjohn dela Cruz.

Kim sealed a second-round match against Wye Jones Saw, the sixth-seeded Malaysian who drew an opening-day bye.

Dela Cruz ousted German Maximilian Becker, 6-4, 6-4, but will have his hands full against second seed Rashman Goghari of Indonesia in today's round.

Siso stamped his class over Malaysian Kar Win Low, 6-1, 6-0, to arrange a second round duel with seventh seeded Pearljit Singh, also of Malaysia.

Singh outlasted Jurence Zosimo Mendoza, 6-1, 5-7, 7-5.

Rivero rolled over John Maverick Ribaya, 6-3, 6-2, while Lee hammered out a 7-6 (5), 3-6, 7-5 win over Raymarck Gulfo.

Air21's Santos makes PBA face morality issues anew

GAME SUNDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6:30 p.m.—Air21 vs Magnolia

By Musong R. Castillo

SANTOS: Summoned by league OIC

ARWIND SANTOS, THE AIR21 FORWARD embroiled in a bigamy suit, must settle his problem at the soonest possible time to avoid possible sanctions from a league that let go of its last commissioner over morality issues.

The possibility of banishment hangs over the Express cager who, sources said, appeared before league officer-in-charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios at the PBA offices to discuss the lawsuit filed against him by Karyn Maye Umayon.

This is, after all, the same league that saw off the disbarred Noli Eala two months ago because of the latter's involvement in an illicit affair.

Santos, who finished second in the Rookie of the Year balloting last season, is accused of marrying two women within an eight-day span several years back.

A very reliable source said that Umayon, with whom Santos has a two-year-old daughter, is now "beyond settlement," after Santos allegedly reneged on an initial agreement reached early this year.

Barrios did not answer text messages nor return phone calls from the INQUIRER, although staff members of the Commissioner's Office confirmed that Santos appeared before him.

However, a television reporter quoted him on Monday afternoon, during the league's press conference, as saying "*Sana maayos na nila* (Santos and Umayon) so that it doesn't reach my office anymore."

Umayon, also according to the source who knows the plaintiff's lawyer, is asking more than P50,000 a month in child support.

Meanwhile, the league also summoned Danny Seigle of Magnolia and Billy Mamaril of defending Philippine Cup champion Barangay Ginebra yesterday for fighting in a practice game last week.

Seigle will reportedly be fined despite an earlier INQUIRER report that quoted PBA technical chief Perry Martinez as saying otherwise since the practice game was not an official practice game.

The league's 33rd season gets off the ground Sunday with Santos leading the Express against Seigle and the Magnolia Beverage Masters in the only game scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

Techno-inspired opening rites usher in the season at 4:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

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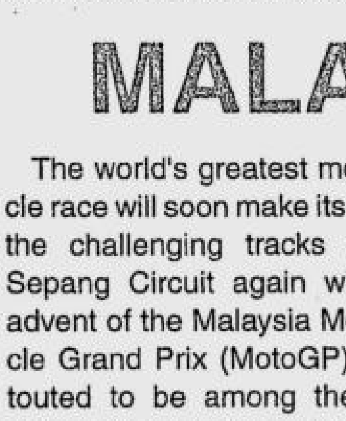
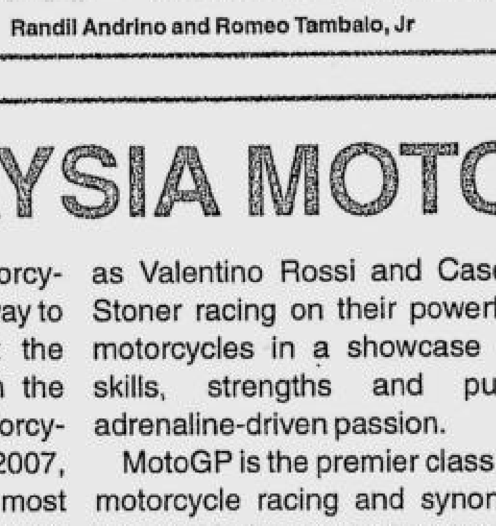
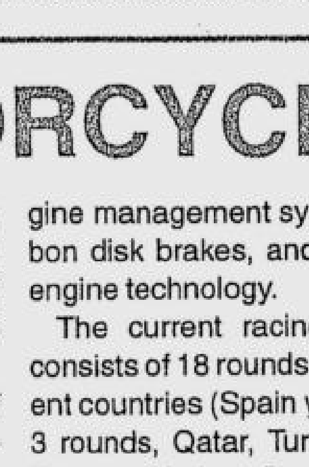
Note to editors: More news from HP, including links to RSS feeds, is available at www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/.
(1) See posters and print ads for details.


Cynthia Carmelo


Randil Andrino and Romeo Tambalo, Jr


Rene Palpallatoc

TEAM members with Romero and SBP's Patrick Gregorio (third and fourth from left, front row).

San Beda pulls 2 stars out of Korea-bound SEAG five

By June Navarro and Jasmine W. Payo

ACADEMICS OVER FLAG AND COUNTRY?

That's how NCAA back-to-back champion San Beda looked to have forged its rules after pulling two Red Lions out of the national basketball team training for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

Albert Almendralejo, San Beda's representative to the NCAA board, announced yesterday that the school would not allow NCAA Finals MVP Rogemar Menor and gunner Pong Escobal to join the Harbour-Philippines team due to the players' academic deficiencies.

The national squad leaves today for Seoul to play a week-long series of matches against four Korean university quintets and a team made up of overseas Filipino workers.

"It's part of the basketball program of San Beda that academics should go hand-in-hand with basketball," said Almendralejo in a statement. "In cases [where] there is a conflict, it is readily resolved in favor of the academic standing of the player."

National team officials said Rico Maierhofer and TY Tang, mainstays of UAAP champion La Salle, would now be invited to join the squad.

UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz and back-to-back PBL MVP Jason Castro banner the 12-man roster that will play in Korea.

The sweet-shooting pair of Patrick Cabahug and Jonathan Fernandez, former pro Alex Crisano, Jeff Chan, Chad Alonzo, Beau Belga, Erick dela Cuesta, Eugene Tan, Boyet Bautista and Allan Salangsang complete the team.

"The Koreans are known for their shooting prowess, so I believe this trip will help the team a lot," Mikee Romero, Harbour Centre owner and SEAG team project manager, said during the send-off party last Monday.

RP Am Tour: Beverly stuns Anya

LIPA CITY—JUNGOLFER BEVERLY MENdoza matched par 72 yesterday to stun Anya Tanpinco and clinch the women's Class A title of the Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung at the Mt. Malarayat course here.

Recovering from an opening 75 at the Malipunyo course, Mendoza found her bearing at the Makulot course to assemble a 147 total and prevail over Tanpinco, the newly crowned Philippine Amateur ladies champion, who tumbled with a 77 for a 149.

Mendoza's victory highlighted the fourth stop of the five-leg series organized by Professional Sports Management Inc.

South Korean Lee Yi-yeon fired rounds of 90 and 79 to bag the Class B plum with a 169 total, four up on runner-up Lin Mangulbanan.

Adding an 85 to a first-round 88, Mangulabnan bested Olive Yoon (85-88) via a countback.

Dulce ruled Class C after posting a 197 total, 30 ahead of Connie Hammer.

Men's play saw Bueno Macatangay snare the Class D crown with a 101 and 95 for a 196 total, eight in front of Tony de la Cruz.

Bo Tuason took the Class C title via playoff at the expense of Eddie Garcia. Tuason and Garcia finished regulation with 173s.

ICSTI bets made their presence in the Championship division by taking four of the first five places after the first round.

Miko Alejandro shot a two-under-par 70, Ferdinand Aunzo a 71, Mike Bibat a 73 and Dante Bisera a 74 as they crowded lone intruder Korean Jae Min-koo (73) at the top.

MALAYSIA MOTORCYCLE GRAND PRIX 2007

The world's greatest motorcycle race will soon make its way to the challenging tracks at the Sepang Circuit again with the advent of the Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix (MotoGP) 2007, touted to be among the most challenging rounds in the entire event.

Spectators will certainly be thrilled to witness top riders such as Valentino Rossi and Casey Stoner racing on their powerful motorcycles in a showcase of skills, strengths and pure adrenaline-driven passion.

MotoGP is the premier class of motorcycle racing and synonymous with the greatest motorcycles ever engineered, where world-class riders compete with sophisticated electronics, engine management systems, carbon disk brakes, and advanced engine technology.

The current racing calendar consists of 18 rounds in 16 different countries (Spain which hosts 3 rounds, Qatar, Turkey, China, France, Italy, Great Britain, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, San Marino, Portugal, Japan, Australia and Malaysia).

The Sepang Circuit is the second last round of the event and sets the standards for racing tracks worldwide with four slow corners following two long straights and 10 medium to high speed corners. The wide track is particularly favourable for overtaking manoeuvres and open throttle in pure racing action. This circuit is also one of the longest laps and among the most gruelling due to the tropical heat and humidity.

Spectators coming here can certainly expect plenty of exhilarating action and adrenaline-inspiring feats during the Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix 2007. A must-attend event for every racing enthusiast and those young at heart.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **DOE seeks ways** to temper hike in local oil prices /B2
- **Shell says IPO in '08** a 'good possibility' /B4

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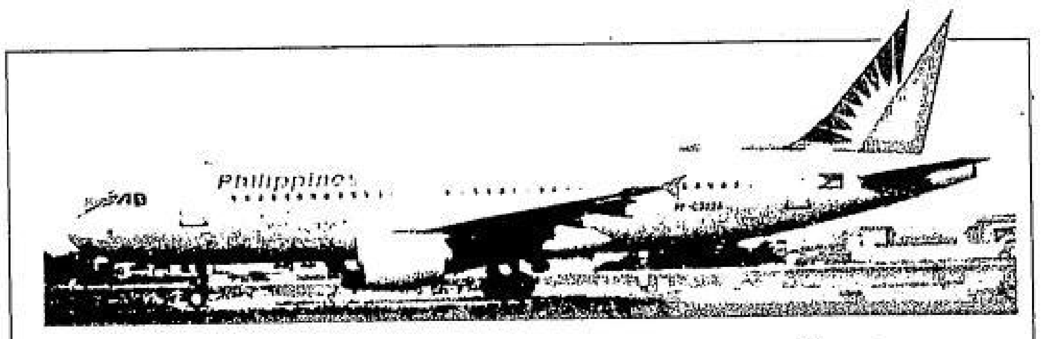
Peso still rising, closes at 44.31 to $1



PAL: Biggest turnaround story

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

LAST WEEK'S EXIT OF PHILIPPINE AIRlines (PAL) from receivership ended a tumultuous nine-year period that started with the company standing on the brink of becoming the biggest collapse in local corporate history.

Indeed, what would have been the largest corporate failure has become one of the biggest turnaround stories among firms that were hit hard by the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

While many companies have successfully implemented rehabilitation programs before, few have actually emerged from receivership programs that were supervised by corporate regulators, with most heading straight for liquidation due either to disagreements among stakeholders or difficult business conditions.

PAL has survived both.

According to PAL president Jaime J. Bautista, however, the company's survival was by no means certain at the height of strained negotiations with its creditors to whom the airline owed $2.2 billion at its peak in 1998.

"When you default on debt, you automatically become the bad guy," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER. "They started calling us names, saying we were 'liars' and [that we were being] 'disingenuous'."

Distrust ran high among PAL's bankers, a situation that was aggravated by the fact that creditors were dealing with a company owned by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio C. Tan whose business methods are routinely the subject of scrutiny by the local press.

PAL/ B6

BSP intervention prevents sharp climb

By Doris C. Dumlao

UPBEAT FOREIGN INVESTOR SENTIMENT perked up the peso to a new seven-year high of 44.23 before profit-taking and central bank intervention pulled the local currency to a weaker finish of 44.31 to the dollar yesterday, currency traders said.

Gaining 4 centavos from Monday's finish of 44.35 against the greenback, traders said expectations of more foreign inflows to forthcoming initial public offerings and other corporate deals over the next few weeks boosted the peso even if the local currency was now hitting overbought levels.

They added that the season for strong overseas Filipino workers' remittances ahead of the Christmas holidays has begun.

Traders said offshore investors were even more bullish than local traders, quoting the peso at 44.15 to 44.20 against the greenback at over-the-counter deals outside the Philippine Dealing System.

The peso would have strengthened further if not for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' continued buying of dollars at the PDS. However, they said the purchases yesterday were not as heavy as the buying in previous days as central bank dealers saw that the market was nearing a correction.

The BSP's purchases were estimated at about $100-$200 million out of yesterday's total volume of $640 million.

The peso's extended rally was

PESO/ B6

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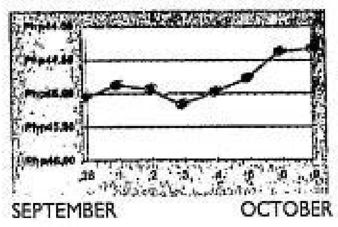


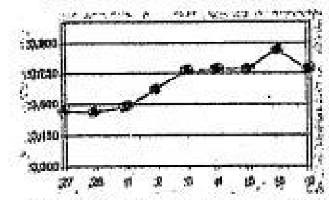
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.31 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 9, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



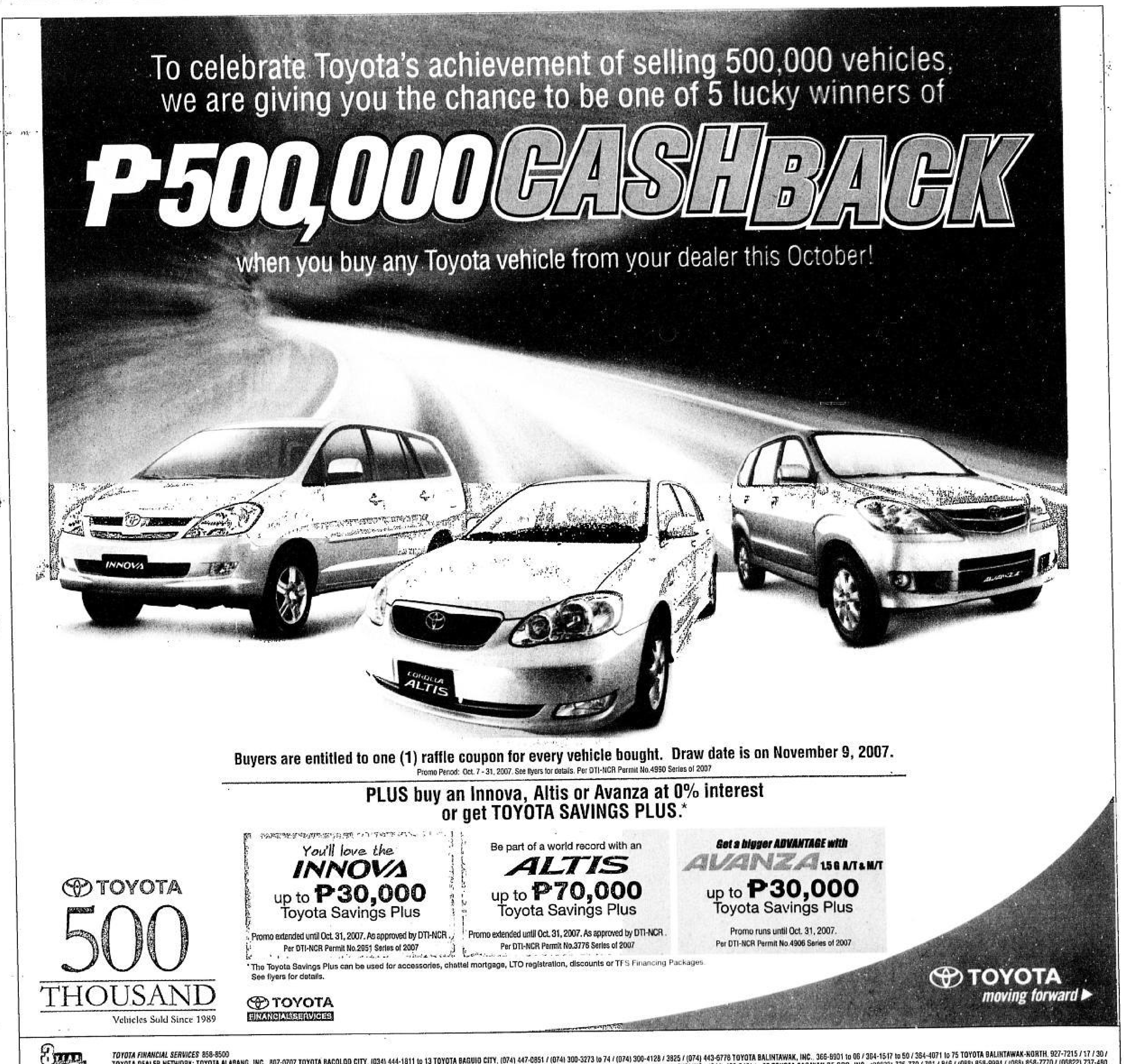
(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks down 2.5% on profit-taking

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.5-PERCENT lower yesterday on a sell-off following six consecutive sessions of record-breaking runs, dealers said.

They said the market was taking a breather after gaining 8.4 percent since

STOCKS/ B6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DOE seeks ways to temper hike in local oil prices

Peso rise not enough to offset increases in crude prices

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS CONsidering implementing certain measures that will alleviate the impact of the escalating world oil prices on local pump prices.

These measures may include a possible cut in the tariffs on imported crude and refined petroleum products.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said there was not much that the government could do in terms of tempering the rise in pump prices as this was the result of market forces.

Reyes said that since the downstream oil industry was deregulated, the government could not intervene with industry players in areas like price-setting.

The strengthening of the peso against the greenback, he said, was likewise not enough to offset the rate at which oil prices were soaring in the world market.

What the government could do, he explained, was to implement mitigating measures that would make use of factors that the government could control.

REYES

One possible measure, Reyes said, was something similar to an executive order that was put in place from June to November last year, which reduced the tariffs on crude and refined petroleum products upon reaching specific "trigger" points.

"We will discuss that with the (Department of Finance)," Reyes said.

Under Executive Order 527, the tariffs on crude and refined petroleum products are reduced by 1-percentage-point increments when regional prices hit certain "trigger" amounts.

Under the implementing rules of the EO, the mandated 3-percent tariff will go down to 2 percent if the regional benchmark Dubai crude hits $66 a barrel, and diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for finished products reaches $88 a barrel.

The price levels should have been sustained for the past two weeks to merit a tariff reduction.

The next trigger points, which will bring the tariff to 1 percent, are $75 a barrel for Dubai crude and still $88 a barrel for MOPS-based diesel.

The import tariff will be scrapped if Dubai crude hits $85 a barrel and MOPS-based diesel $88 a barrel.

As of Oct. 8, Dubai crude hit an average of $73.72 a barrel, up from $73.36 a barrel last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel soared to an Oct. 1-8 average of $93.60 a barrel from $92.83 a barrel in September.

Netopia ties up with e-learning firm

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NETOPIA INTERNET cafe franchise has partnered with Australian e-learning company Drake Training Systems Limited (DTSL) to offer the Englishlink training program to those wanting to join the call center market.

Under the partnership, DTSL will provide the English learning program called Englishlink through a website while Netopia will serve as a payment outlet and "classroom."

There are about 200,000 people presently working in 120 contact centers in the country.

The industry is projecting that by 2010, more than one million Filipinos will be working in the call center industry, generating $12 billion for the economy.

However, industry data indicated that of the 400,000 new graduates looking for work yearly, only 2.89 percent are hired in business process outsourcing (BPO) companies and call centers.

In addition, only 10 of every 100 college graduates pass their communication exams. The next 20 candidates could have been hired had they enrolled in Englishlink, DTSL director Ron Longstaff said.

"Call centers can triple their returns by using Englishlink," Longstaff said.

Netopia is already providing clients with online content from ReviewCard, Total Transcription Services, and Computer Assisted Learning. It also promotes the online job portal JOB1 Global.

Netopia officials said Englishlink is a strategic addition to their services because it offers native-speaker quality English lessons accessed in any Netopia branch.

German bank raising exposure in RP microfinancing ventures

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEUTSCHE BANK is increasing its loan portfolio for microfinancing in the Philippines, indicating how foreign banks become a lucrative source of funding for small enterprises.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Deutsche Bank chief country officer Enrico Cruz said the German bank had signed a loan agreement with The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD)—a San Pablo City based nongovernment organization – worth about P75 million.

CARD is a microcredit service provider that serves low-income entrepreneurs in the Philippines. The loan will be used for developing CARD's micro-credit lending facilities as well as to further strengthen its capital base.

"Deutsche Bank, in line with its broader sustainability initiatives, is proud to be able to provide an attractive source of funding to CARD in the Philippines," Cruz said.

Deutsche Bank also announced that the loan to CARD had subsequently been assigned to a Microfinance Fund incorporated in Germany—VG Microfinance-Invest Nr.1 Gmbh.

The fund has collected 21 such loans to microfinance institutions around the world, and has distributed these in the form of investments to development institutions, religious organizations, Deutsche Bank itself, and clients of its high-net worth division.

Microfinance refers not only to lending but the provision of a broad range of financial services such as deposits, payment services, money transfers and insurance to poor and low-income households and their microenterprises.

Cruz said the signing of this loan agreement with CARD and its partnership with other microfinance entities around the world, was a proof that Deutsche Bank can offer Philippine microfinance organizations a source of funding, as well as offer global investors a new route for social and ethical investments.

Aristotle Alip, CARD managing director and founder said: "By providing low-income earners with credit we give individuals an opportunity to substantially improve their lives. Our success will be measured by what our clients accomplish in their lives using our services."

This is the second major Philippine microfinance loan disbursed by Deutsche Bank. In November 2006, it signed a P110-million loan agreement with Tatay sa Kauswagan (TSKI)—the first tranche of an overall loan to TSKI equivalent to $4.5 million. The TSKI loan was made in cooperation with the Global Commercial Microfinance Consortium.

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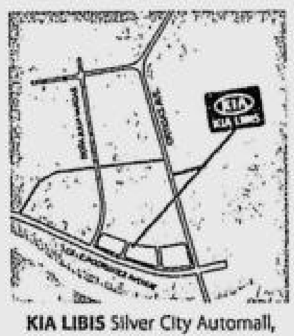

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Local cable group bucks PLDT's mobile TV offering

Files formal complaint with NTC

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE Cable Television Association (PCTA) has moved to block the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. group's mobile TV service called myTV, but will be sparing the 3GTV service of Globe Telecom Inc.

PCTA has close to 300 members, including SkyCable.

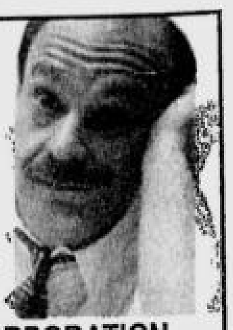
"We submitted our complaint to the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) yesterday," PCTA president Allan Dungao told the INQUIRER.

He said that among the many issues which the cable group has against myTV was that it uses DTTH (Direct terrestrial television for handheld) bandwidth.

"That is essentially digital broadcasting, and Smart and its partners do not have the franchise for that. There are no (digital TV) rules yet and yet they are testing this already," Dungao said. "Globe (meanwhile) did not apply for the same. Their service is via 3G, they have a franchise for that."

The NTC is currently reworking its guidelines on digital

CABLE/ B7



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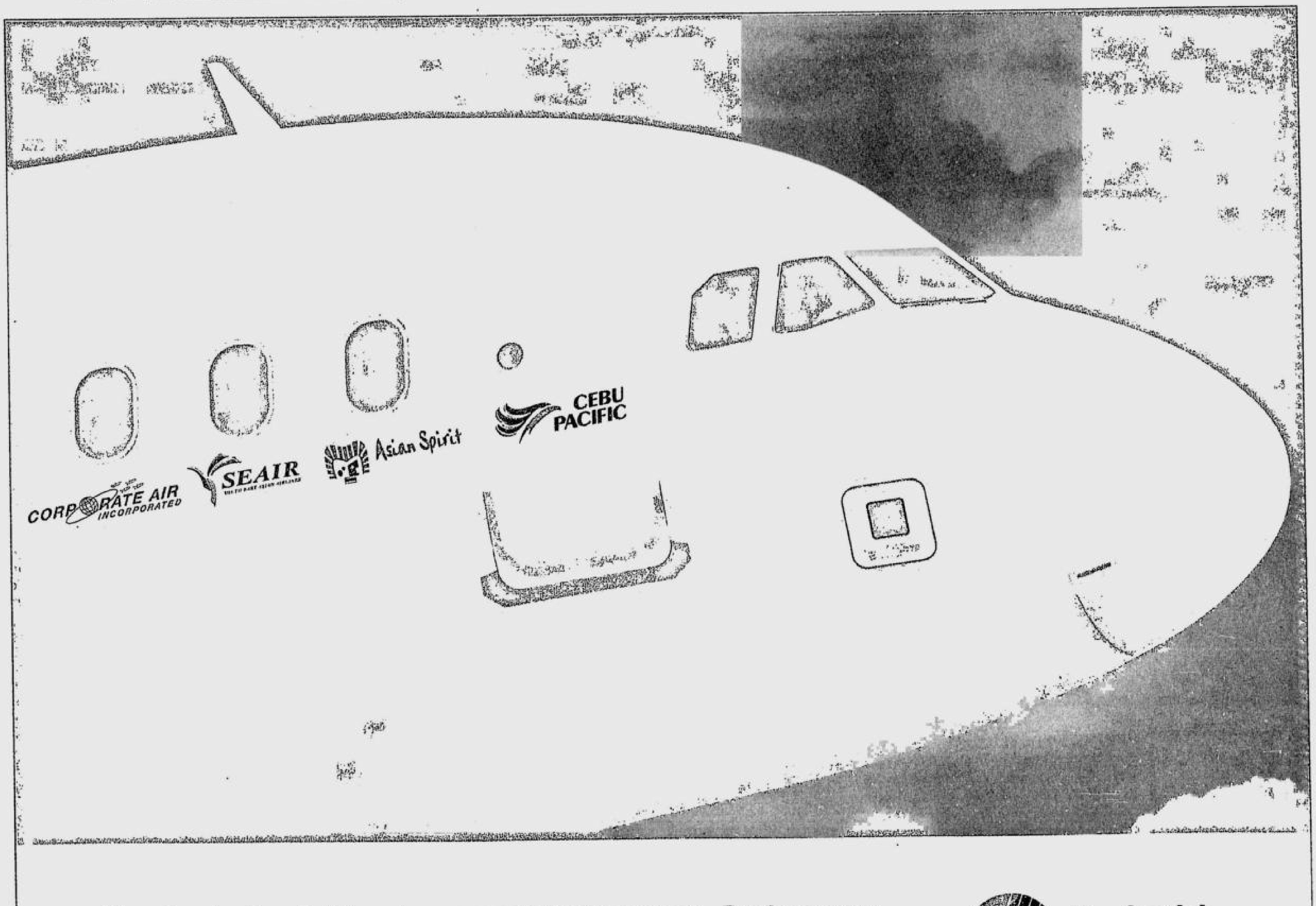

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Shell says IPO in '08 a 'good possibility'

Awaits study on plant expansion

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. sees a "good possibility" of going public by next year, considering the current strength of the stock market.

The initial public offering, however, was dependent on the results of a refinery expansion study that the oil firm is undertaking, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said in an interview yesterday.

"There's a good possibility for an IPO next year. The study is also linked to the IPO. Of course, it will be better to do an IPO and have something you'll use the money for. Essentially, the IPO is hinged on the (results of the study) and on the market. Right now, the market is good," he told reporters.

The oil company had earlier conducted a study that would determine whether or not it should expand its existing refinery here and by how much. It also considered the possibility of Shell shutting down its refinery and just becoming a pure product importer.

Chua said that according to the study, the level at which Shell wanted to expand its refinery would cost way too much—close to $3 billion.

"Instead of the initial $1.5-billion estimate, it came close to $3 billion because of the overheated market. What we did was look at a more modest upgrade option, which should cost less than $1 billion," he said.

"The newer study is much more complicated because it will look at what we'll do so that if we decide to expand, it will be at a nonregrettable cost. We don't want to expand our facilities now and then have to start over when we want to expand further," he added.

He declined to make a firm commitment as to when the new study would be completed, saying he preferred to wait for the report of Shell's technical people.

Shell parent firm Royal Dutch Shell Plc has affirmed the importance of its Philippine business to its overall operations, committing to grow it further in the future.

"The Philippines is an important country for Shell, given that substantial investments have been made in upstream, downstream and most recently, Shell Shared Services," said Royal Dutch Shell chief executive Jeroen van der Veer in a courtesy call to President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

Lotto firm's profit up 177% in 9 mos

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LOTTO EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER PACIFIC Online Systems Corp. said its net income grew 177 percent to P115.8 million in the first nine months from P41.8 million in the same period in 2006, driven by lotto sales and further helped by lower expenses.

Officials said in a briefing yesterday that revenues in the first nine months grew 14 percent to P343 million from P301 million the year before.

Operating expenses dropped 40 percent to P114 million during the nine-month period, from P190 million in the same period last year due to lower management and legal fees.

Pacific Online chair Willy Ocier said the company handled P1.24 billion in lotto sales for Visayas and Mindanao in the third quarter. Revenues in the third quarter also hit a record P124 million.

"We are on track to meet our net income target of P170 million for this year," Ocier told reporters.

Pacific Online expanded its lotto operations in Visayas and Mindanao and has installed almost 400 terminals in the first nine months.

As of September, the state-owned Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office had 1,354 terminals in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Pacific Online provides the online lottery system for the PCSO.

Pacific Online expects sales and revenue growth to continue as it targets the rollout of 500 terminals this year.

CURRENCIES

October 9, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.711997	1.000000	44.4070
Japan	Yen	0.006064	0.008517	0.3782
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449199	2.035400	90.3860
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091777	0.128901	5.7241
Switzerland	Franc	0.600031	0.842744	37.4237
Canada	Dollar	0.721156	1.012863	44.9782
Singapore	Dollar	0.482939	0.678288	30.1207
Australia	Dollar	0.638105	0.896218	39.7984
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.890342	2.654985	117.8999
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.190384	0.267394	11.8742
Brunei	Dollar	0.481307	0.675995	30.0189
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022798	0.032020	1.4219
UAE	Dirham	0.193899	0.272331	12.0934
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.404500	62.3696
Korea	Won	0.000779	0.001094	0.0486
China	Yuan**	0.094854	0.133223	5.9160
Denmark	Kroner	0.134205	0.188491	8.3703
India	Rupee	0.018071	0.025381	1.1271
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209998	0.294942	13.0975
New Zealand	Dollar	0.544049	0.764117	33.9321
Sweden	Kroner	0.109124	0.153264	6.8060
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021852	0.030691	1.3629

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 8, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 8, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 9, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	47,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	64	64	63	63.5	657,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70	70	69.5	70	1,817,000
748	504	China Banking Corp.	725	725	715	720	4,100
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	860,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	64	64	63	63	4,070,400
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	52.5	54	52.5	54	138,200
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	20,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28	28	27	27.5	769,800
90	52.5	Security Bank Corp.	77.5	77.5	77.5	77.5	254,200
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54	53.5	53.5	295,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.94	1.98	5,429,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.25	13.25	12.5	12.75	590,300
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	2,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	1,100
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.7	1,283,000
3.1	1.04	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	315,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	820	830	815	820	3,700
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,355.00	2,355.00	2,355.00	2,355.00	420
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	35,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5,972,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	60,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	69.5	69.5	68.5	68.5	67,700
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85	85	83	83.5	523,100
16	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	15	15.25	14.75	15.25	8,118,000
105.45	19.32	Manila Electric Company	85	85	82	83	1,669,300
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.3	23,656,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.9	8,000,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	130,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	1,710,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	20,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.02	2.08	1.98	2	1,150,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,000
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54	53.5	53.5	165,900
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	1,120,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.75	461,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	62	62	61.5	62	54,700
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	62.5	63	458,600
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	70,000
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	80,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	1,318,000
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	1,420,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
13	7.3	Concrete Aggregates Corp. A	12.5	13	12.5	13	20,000
6.1	1.95	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.55	4.7	1,444,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	12	12	10.5	11.75	244,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	43,000
7	1.64	Republic Cement Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.5	32,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	10,364,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5	5.1	4.9	5	10,179,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	90,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.135	[illegible] Resources, Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.46	35,980,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.2	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	40,000
0.17	0.026	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	23,000,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.8	0.81	11,350,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3.1	3.35	3	3.25	3,042,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.3	617,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	338,000,000
9.7	5.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	1,242,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	106,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	8,846,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.36	2.36	346,000
16	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Company Inc. A	10	11	10	11	800
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	580	580	555	560	369,610
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	47,800
5.8	1.32	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.35	4.35	6,324,000
10.25	4.15	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.2	9	9	2,780,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	14,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	3,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	550,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	25,000
14.5	6.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	151,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.82	1.92	1.82	1.86	596,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.59	4,020,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.5	8.6	7.9	8.2	9,049,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.22	0.24	0.215	0.23	614,750,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	100,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	3,740,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	100,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	410	410	392.5	400	302,950
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	100,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	3,820,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.78	410,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.46	1,632,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.41	12,260,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.98	A Brown Company Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.44	1.44	598,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.8	18,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.71	0.76	0.71	0.75	700,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	17.5	17	17	3,595,700
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	863,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.4	107,000
2	1.5	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.94	2	1.94	2	422,000
2.1	1.6	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	2	2	2	2	430,000
2.7	1.08	Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	40,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	790,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	4,760,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,800,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	7,710,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.72	1.74	90,100,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	190,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.85	3.9	38,170,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	327,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,480,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.59	0.59	1,110,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20	19.25	19.25	2,945,800
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.45	4.45	1,910,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	7,035,800
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.5	432,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	270,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	4,500,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	6,779,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	17	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32.5	31.5	32.5	61,900
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.1	9.2	8.9	9	1,602,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.52	1.58	3,329,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,645.00	1,660.00	1,640.00	1,640.00	226,640
3,285.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,200.00	3,210.00	3,170.00	3,170.00	180,810
8.1	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.7	7.9	4,415,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.21	11,940,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.8	9.9	9.5	9.7	4,552,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.046	0.044	0.045	69,900,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	270,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	15,760,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	438,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.0575	66,100,000
5.8	1.3	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l. Inc.	3	3.4	2.9	3.4	33,805,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	53,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4,000
40	18	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37.5	37.5	36.5	37	1,465,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.9	2	1.9	2	652,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	78,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	685,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.66	0.72	0.65	0.7	12,690,000
1.2	0.43	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	50,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	167,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.9	5	196,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	67,600
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	1,736,700
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	100,200,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	470,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	635,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	15.75	15	15	1,728,600
5.8	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4	5.8	4	5.8	2,367,000
3.1	0.53	GEOGRACE Res. Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.5	2.55	24,386,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	14,030,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	8,580,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	260,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	66,500,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	21.5	22	20.5	20.75	1,709,200
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	388,000,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.9	6,324,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	37.5	37.5	37	37	248,100
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.99	1	0.94	0.99	470,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,552,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	7,470,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	104,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	108,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	46,100
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	507,500,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	966.30	DOWN	10.96	16,593,020	523,030,860.00
Industrial	4,700.77	DOWN	60.17	113,725,300	726,492,880.00
Holding Firms	2,106.36	DOWN	63.98	1,153,728,160	706,760,960.00
Property	1,698.57	DOWN	68.82	180,093,300	583,779,570.00
Service	1,885.04	DOWN	48.37	230,464,750	1,257,498,115.00
Mining & Oil	7,531.24	DOWN	183.35	1,605,316,000	252,182,910.00
All Shares Index	2,359.28	DOWN	50.14		
PSEi	3,776.00	DOWN	97.50		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,299,920,530	4,049,745,295.00

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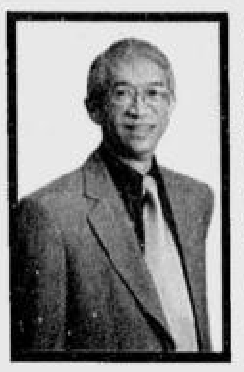

ABOUT NED ROBERTO Ph.D.
A much sought-after international marketing speaker, consultant and author, NED ROBERTO, Ph.D. has been conducting the Marketing Research seminars since 1981. He has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of ***Social Marketing***, & the bestselling ***User-Friendly Marketing Research***.

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Gov't won't cut infra spending to trim deficit

Officials attempt balancing act while sticking to fiscal targets

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT WILL STICK TO ITS TARGET OF WIPING OUT the budget deficit by next year without choking social and infrastructure spending.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves ruled out proposals from some economists to tolerate even a small fiscal deficit next year to boost vital infrastructure spending.

"With privatization (efforts), we will not sacrifice spending for social services and infrastructure," Teves said. "I realize this is not something that might not be acceptable to the rating agencies, but I'm more concerned about [funding] the infrastructure program."

The government expects to meet its P63-billion budget deficit cap for this year and attain its balanced budget goal next year using money generated from privatization thrusts. But since these are nonrecurring revenues, most credit rating agencies will not consider privatization proceeds when they look at the government's finances.

For 2008, Teves said, the government may expect an income of P30 billion or more from the sale of government assets. The government will also work harder to boost its tax revenues.

It would be ideal for the market and ratings agencies to look favorably on the government's game plan, he said.

"But in the end, if we can't get both, I'd rather that we fund the infrastructure program," Teves added. "In the end, we may still arrive at a balanced budget ... [using] proceeds from privatization."

With huge tax shortfalls in the first semester, he said it was a "horrendous" task to trim the budget deficit this year. Without privatization proceeds, he said, the budget deficit this year could shoot up to over P100 billion.

From the sale of the government's stake in geothermal power producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. alone, the government hopes to generate P32 to P36 billion this year.

Philippine economic managers are set to conduct a roadshow in New York later this month to drum up interest for the government's large-scale infrastructure program.

In Asia, oil prices dip on rising supply

SINGAPORE—WORLD OIL PRICES YESTERDAY continued to fall in Asian trade as the market focused on rising supply and a stronger US dollar, dealers said.

New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in November, was 17 cents lower at $78.85 per barrel in afternoon trade.

The contract had plunged $2.20 to $79.02 per barrel in late United States trades on Monday.

Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was 13 cents lower at $76.45 per barrel after dropping $2.32 in London.

Prices have fallen sharply since New York oil prices burst through the 80-dollar level for the first time last month, and went on to hit an all-time peak of $84.10.

Brent oil hit a record high of $81.05 per barrel in late September.

Steve Rowles, an analyst with CFC Seymour in Hong Kong, said that, with the Atlantic Ocean hurricane season virtually over, and rising crude supplies, the market is focussing on supply and demand fundamentals.

"I think that the market's just sort of rebalancing itself," Rowles said.

The Gulf of Mexico is a leading oil-producing region for the United States and Mexico. Investors worry about storm damage to oil rigs and other infrastructure during the long Atlantic hurricane season that ends in November.

Crude oil stocks rose by 1.2 million barrels, a report last week by the US Department of Energy (DoE) showed, and Rowles said the market's consensus forecast is for another rise this week when the latest DoE report is issued.

At the same time, demand remains stable, he said.

The strengthening US dollar has added to downward pressure on oil prices, Rowles said.

A stronger US currency makes dollar-denominated commodities, such as crude oil and gold, more expensive for buyers using weaker currencies.

Sucden analyst Michael Davies said that the fall in oil prices came on concerns over a possible slowdown in the US economy and uncertainty about the outcome of a recent credit crunch in the world's biggest economy.

AFP

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DA asks Congress to extend life of agri fund up to 2015

Agency lends money to farmers interest-free, without collateral

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. Yap is pushing for the extension of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund up to 2015.

Created by virtue of Republic Act No. 8178 in 1996, the fund consists of the duties collected from the importation of agricultural products under the minimum access volume mechanism.

The funds pooled under ACEF are earmarked by Congress for irrigation, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, credit, research and development, retraining, extension services and marketing infrastructure for the agriculture sector.

It is used by the Department of Agriculture for lending to farmer organizations interest-free and without collateral. The ACEF is expiring in December this year.

In a presentation before the Senate finance committee, Yap said the ACEF was critical in improving farm productivity and farmers' income.

He said the non-extension of the ACEF would deprive farmers of funds that they use to, among others, acquiring post-harvest facilities.

In case the funding mechanism would not be extended, Yap told the senators that the farm sector would have to let go of ACEF's unreleased fund of P1.9 billion and some P5.5 billion that has yet to be remitted to the DA. The amount, he said, would only be transferred to the general fund of the government unless Congress would approve a measure extending the life of ACEF beyond Dec. 31, 2007.

According to Yap, Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Juan Ponce Enrile have shown support for the extension of ACEF for another seven years.

Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, has meanwhile formally endorsed before the Senate the proposed law extending ACEF life to 2015.

Also, the agriculture department is asking Congress to expand the coverage of ACEF to include small agricultural enterprises, farmers' cooperatives and graduates of agriculture-related courses.

Yap said the DA would also push for the creation of a congressional oversight committee to monitor and evaluate the use of the ACEF.

Yap said that under a proposed bill filed in the House of Representatives during the previous Congress, the coverage of the fund would be expanded to include micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors, young entrepreneurs, out-of-school youths, graduates of agriculture-related courses, and agricultural cooperatives.

ACEF has funded 173 projects worth P2.76 billion in 2006.

About 55 projects worth P1.14 billion were approved for funding by the ACEF committee this year.

NEW PEZA ENTERPRISE

Kenji Hieida, president of Technomolva Inc., and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia B. de Lima sign the agreement covering the registration of the firm's business at the Cavite Economic Zone. Technomolva will engage in the fabrication of mold/tooling and manufacturing of tray/blister tray, and blister pack/clam shell packs.

PSBank seen boosting loan growth with fresh capital

By Daxim L. Lucas

PUBLICLY LISTED PHILIPPINE SAVINGS Bank (PSBank) has targeted an aggressive expansion in its loan portfolio for next year after it received regulatory approval for an increase in its capital base.

In an interview, PSBank president Pascual M. Garcia III said the bank would raise at least P1.5 billion in fresh equity by selling as much as 50 million in authorized but unissued shares to its stockholders.

"The new money would allow us to extend more loans, given the requirements under the Basle 2 rules," he said.

Under newly implemented banking regulations, banks must allocate more capital to back up exposure to risk, including loans and marketable securities.

Garcia said the fresh capital would be used to boost PSBank's foray deeper into the market for consumer loans and lending to micro, small- and mid-sized enterprises.

He believes that PSBank's loan portfolio would grow between 18 and 20 percent in 2008, given the bank's focus on these segments, which remain underserved.

"We believe that growth in loans will continue," he said, adding that the bank is also evaluating the acquisition of consumer loan portfolios from other financial entities to boost its growth.

Last Friday, the bank informed the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that it had received approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the capital raising exercise.

Earlier, the bank obtained a rating of "PRS Aa plus"—one notch below its highest mark—from credit watcher Philippine Rating Services Corp. (PhilRatings) for its P2-billion unsecured subordinated debt issue.

PhilRatings said it considered PSBank's strong market position in the consumer loan sector, consistent growth in its loan portfolio matched by a robust growth and stability in its deposits, good asset quality, and continued growth in earnings.

"However, these strengths are counterbalanced by PSBank's lower net interest margin due to higher cost of funding and the increase in the bank's nonperforming loans (NPL)," the debt watcher said in its assessment.

PSBank's total assets amounted to P62.9 billion at the end of March 2007, making it the second largest among the country's 84 thrift banks.

As of end-2006, the bank accounted for about 14 percent of the thrift banking sector's total assets, 14 percent of its total loans, 16 percent of its total deposits and 13 percent of its total capital.

It presently has 150 branches, 93 of which are located in Metro Manila. Being part of the Metrobank Group benefits PSBank in terms of branch expansion, access to interbank facilities and shared customer data infrastructure.

This year, income will likely be carried by an increase in lending and deposit generation activities. Further revenue and earnings growth are expected going forward on account of a wider distribution infrastructure and improvements in the bank's funding base as it introduces new products and services, PhilRatings said.

On the PSE, PSBank's shares closed at P62.50 apiece in very light trade.

SSS: What to do

(Continued from last week)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IN 1997, THE SSS LAW WAS EXtensively rewritten. After 10 years, it is time to take stock.

There is a lot to be done.

To start, let me lay down the underlying principles of social security in the simplest way. Membership in the SSS is compulsory; so is the payment of contributions. By law, money collected is guaranteed to be returned to members in the form of death, disability and pension benefits. From a member's standpoint, he is willing to part with a portion of his earnings for his future needs. As a result, the people running the SSS have the awesome moral and legal responsibility of taking good care of the money.

But, judging from the latest financial statement, billions of pesos of members' money have been lost from bad investments and ill-conceived loan programs.

Obviously, the SSS cannot continue doing business the way it has done these past few years. Some critical steps will have to be taken, and right away.

First, the SSS should get out of low-cost housing. There are other government agencies which were set up precisely to engage in this line of business. Notice that private insurance companies stay out of it. Even in the United States, public housing programs have the lowest investment priority in the insurance industry. The risks of nonpayment are too great for the private sector to bear.

Second, the small loans window should be closed, and at once. This program was supposed to encourage membership in the SSS. Instead, it only allowed the member to borrow his pension way ahead of his day of retirement. When he did retire, he had nothing to retire on. Besides, the SSS is not a charitable institution. By the way, you can scour the SSS law, new or old, and you will not find one word justifying the program of granting salary, calamity or tuition loans.

Third, the plan to allocate P1 billion for small and medium enterprises should be aborted. This has the makings of another monumental fiasco.

Fourth, investments should be restricted to government securities only. I know this will bring down investment income. But look at the cotton candy assets now infesting the books of the SSS. If this will result in raising contributions without raising benefits, so be it.

The original SSS law was copied from the US law, which carried, and still carries, this restriction. Going back to this rule will prevent well-connected people from preying on the fund by manipulating transactions at the stock exchanges to enrich themselves.

Many of the serious problems at the SSS can be traced to undue influence from Malacañang, starting from Marcos. All the foregoing suggestions will insulate the SSS from presidential meddling.

With some help from the Philippine Association of Retired Persons, former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III filed a bill to amend the SSS law. That bill should be filed again and passed as soon as possible.

Finally, over the past 10 years, crimes have been committed at the SSS. Billions of pesos collected from the poorest employees have been stolen. Should the guilty be allowed to go unpunished?

New rules on pre-need funds management OKd

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) is putting in place new guidelines that will govern the management of pre-need funds.

The guidelines will take effect on Nov. 1.

In a statement, the SEC said one of the salient features of SEC memorandum circular No. 4 series 2007 was the tightening of the allowable ceiling on real estate investments, which was brought down to 15 percent from 25 percent of the fund.

This provision is aimed at ensuring the liquidity of the pre-need trust fund or the pool of assets used by a pre-need firm to pay for maturing benefits.

Also, the circular provides that collective investment schemes or mutual funds, both onshore and offshore, should not be more than 10 percent.

To promote diversification of investment options, trustee banks managing pre-need firms' funds will be allowed to make offshore investments, such as in bonds and other foreign government debt issues and offshore mutual funds.

Trustee banks can also invest in stocks of related companies that are listed on the exchange but only after securing prior approval from the SEC commission en banc.

The liquidity reserve fund—or funds for each pre-need plan type—was also increased to 20 percent from 10 percent to ensure the availability of funds to meet the obligations of pre-need firms.

Timeline

1992 - Government privatizes PAL; PR Holdings acquires a 67-percent stake in airline

1993 - PAL expands fleet, orders 747-400 aircraft; Lucio Tan elected vice chair of PR Holdings

1995 - Board calls for capital infusion to finance refleeting, but shareholders are divided over the issue; Lucio Tan becomes PR Holdings chair

1996 - Tan infuses P5 billion in fresh capital into the airline; PAL embarks on massive refleeting program, funded by equity and debt, involving the acquisition of 36 new aircraft worth $4 billion

1997 - PAL embarks on major facelift of facilities; launches "Asia's Sunniest" marketing drive

1998 - PAL pilots go on a three-week strike over wage issues, causing massive losses; coupled with the effects of the East Asian financial crisis, the airline effectively goes bankrupt and suspends debt payments

1999 - Lucio Tan commits to infuse additional $200 million into PAL; creditors agree to debt restructuring; company submits rehabilitation plan to the Securities and Exchange Commission. PAL moves to Centennial Terminal 2

2000 - On the first year of the rehabilitation program, PAL declares a modest P44.2-million income, ending six straight years of losses

2001 - PAL reports P419-million profit, expands international network and launches Internet booking system

2002 - PAL reports P295-M profit

2003 - International network expansion continues with new flights to Okinawa and restores service to Kuala Lumpur.

2004 - PAL reports P1.2 billion in net income despite rising fuel prices and the jitters caused by the 9-11 attacks, Iraq war, SARS.

2005 - PAL orders nine A320s worth $840 million

2006 - Airline starts planning exit from receivership as profit continues improving for eight consecutive years

2007 - PAL exits receivership program. It likewise completes e-ticketing system for entire network. PR Holdings acquires direct control of the airline, laying the groundwork for public share offer via listed firm PAL Holdings. From $2.2 billion in 1999, PAL's total debt comes down to $869 million at the end of August 2007.

PAL: Biggest . . .

From page B1

Bautista said that relations with the firm's creditors improved only once PAL became transparent with its true situation.

"We told them what the real problems were," he recalled. "We told them the issues facing us."

With transparency came understanding and a dramatic increase in patience on both sides of the negotiating table.

"We became patient with them, too, and when we restructured our debts, they changed," he said.

PAL's situation vis-a-vis its creditors is unique only in scale, but the dynamics are evident in smaller corporate rehabilitation programs.

One corporate rehabilitation specialist interviewed by the INQUIRER said that one critical element necessary for a successful rehabilitation program is a rational manager amid the chaos of a debt default or bankruptcy.

Such an individual, he said, should be allowed to function without the obvious pressure from creditors to produce immediate results.

"A company should be given time," he said, requesting anonymity, having worked with distressed companies of the Lucio Tan Group in the past. "If a company is already in trouble, it becomes even more mistake-prone if it is pressured."

This was evident even in PAL at the outset when the airline tried costly stopgap measures like the hiring of pilots from Cathay Pacific to help it get over a crippling strike in 1998.

"For a while, they tried all sorts of things," he said.

Aware that the airline's reputation and corporate future was on the line, PAL's Bautista said that management decided to pay off creditors as soon as they could, in order to establish "good faith" among all parties involved.

Thus, a year after entering into the rehabilitation program, PAL decided to begin paying off its creditors, many of whom had agreed to a painful "haircut"—deep reductions in their interest incomes—while others agreed to longer repayment terms.

"The relationship changed after that," he said. "They started to trust us again."

By the end of the first year of rehabilitation, the company reported a $16-million profit. It was meager. But it was the first black ink on the company's bottom line in six years. *(To be concluded)*

Peso still rising . . .

From page B1

likewise supported by the strong regional currency market, in turn caused by a weak sentiment on the US dollar and the region's much-improved economic fundamentals.

"What can cause a sudden reversal of fortunes is a relapse of the subprime jitters in the US. Now, everyone thinks that the situation has normalized and that the US will hopefully achieve a soft landing," said Marcelo Ayes, senior vice president at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

The global jitters, which hit global markets the hardest in August, were caused by concerns on rising delinquencies in the US subprime mortgage credit or housing loans made to borrowers with imperfect credit history and little equity.

In the next few weeks, the market is expecting some inflows going to the IPO of cash transfer service company iRemit, P10 billion going to Pepsi Cola Philippines, P13 billion to Philippine Airlines and more than P30 billion for the privatization of the government's controlling stake in geothermal producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. on Nov. 21.

The winner of the bidding is expected to control more than 60 percent of the installed geothermal capacity in the country and have exclusive exploration and development rights over key geothermal reserve areas in the Philippines through long-term contracts with the government.

Stocks down 2.5% . . .

From page B1

last week with some investors cashing in on gains.

The composite index fell 97.50 points to 3,776.00, after moving between 3,773.00 and 3,873.50. Losers swamped gainers 85 to 41, while 42 stocks ended flat.

A total of 3.6 billion shares worth P4.1 billion ($93.18 million) changed hands.

The market gained 8.4 percent in the last six sessions, buoyed by an upbeat outlook on the domestic economy, a reduction in Philippine interest rates, easing concerns about the US economy and expectations of strong corporate earnings for the third quarter.

"No sector was spared as the market corrected the excessive exuberance in the last couple of trading sessions when we were outperforming other markets in the region," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities. *AFP*

Gov't to change tax system on finance instruments

Number of banks dropped to 858 from last year's 871

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SIMPLIFY and standardize the taxation system on financial instruments to better promote capital market development.

The Department of Finance (DOF), through the Capital Market Development Council, is studying possible changes to eliminate tax arbitrage and institute tax neutrality in the financial sector, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in its latest quarterly report on the financial system.

For instance, a shift to a uniform 10-percent final withholding tax on interest income was proposed for either a deposit or debt instrument maturing in over five years or less. At present, the government provides fiscal incentives to long-term deposit instruments or those kept in banks for over five years.

The government wants a tax regime wherein various instruments are levied uniform or equal taxes, to prevent tax arbitrage, or the practice of investing heavily in an instrument whose tax treatment is more favorable compared to others.

The BSP also reported that borrowing and lending of securities under the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation's (PDEx) Fixed Income Securities Lending Program would be exempted from the documentary stamp tax (DST).

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has ruled that the return of a borrower's collateral by a lender would not be subject to the DST, as well as to capital gains, income and other taxes for as long as the following conditions would be met:

- The master securities lending agreement is registered with and approved by the BIR;
- The transaction is in accordance with Securities Exchange Commission rules; and,
- The transaction is coursed through the fixed income exchange.

In the same report, the BSP said that the number of banking institutions had fallen further to 858 as of end-June 2007 from the year-ago level of 871, reflecting continued consolidations and mergers, as well as the closure of weak banks.

There are 38 commercial banks, 83 thrift banks and 737 rural banks.

However, the branch operating network of the banking system increased to 7,738 as of end-June 2007 from 7,693 at end-June 2006, reflecting mainly the increase in thrift banks and rural banks' branches/agencies.

On a quarterly basis, the number of banking institutions declined to 858 as of end-June 2007 from 861 as of end-March 2007.

Total resources of the banking system rose by 9.1 percent to P5.09 trillion as of end-June 2007 from its year-ago level of P4.7 trillion.

Commercial banks continued to account for almost 90 percent of the total resources of the banking system.

Smart to undertake ad blitz for gamers

By Riza T. Olchondra

FILIPINOS ARE READY FOR ADS that are linked to games or delivered inside games, said Bong Mojica, head of the wireless consumer division of Smart Communications Inc.

At a launch for Level Up! Mobile, a service that allows gamers to remotely access their Level Up! account and download mobile content, Mojica said that, as the gamer population in the Philippines grows, so does the potential to promote Smart's services through games.

Level Up! marketing director Jake San Diego confirmed that there is a huge base for gaming-related advertising.

"Level Up! has 600,000 members, but the population of gamers in the Philippines is currently three million and is fast growing," he said.

Smart and Level Up! are subsidiaries of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

But this does not stop Smart from talking to other game publishers for in-game advertising.

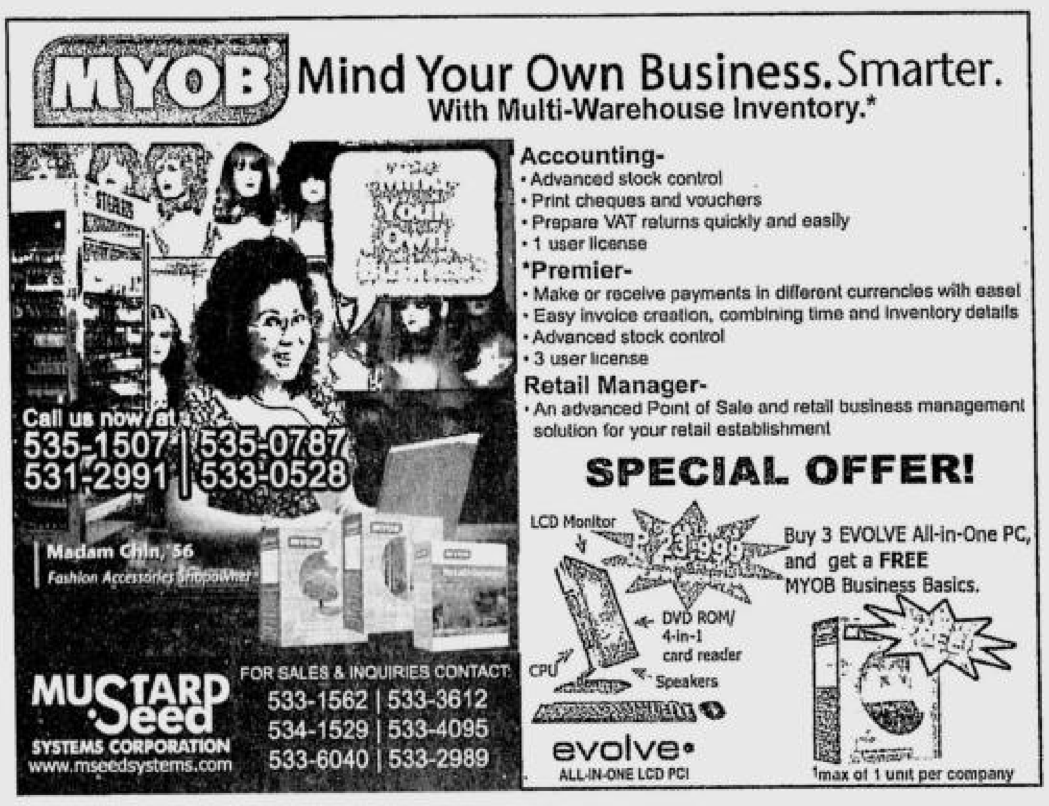
"Yes, we have been in touch with various publishers," Mojica said. "The mobile service for accessing accounts is currently exclusive with Level Up!, but we will not work exclusively with Level Up! in terms of in-game advertising."

Smart has, in fact, had in-game advertising trials with Level Up! rival IP e-Games, a subsidiary of listed ICT company IPVG Corp.

IPVG CEO Enrique Gonzalez said in a separate interview that IP e-Games has piloted ad campaigns "for telecommunications and technology companies," including Smart, in its flagship game, RAN Online.

According to studies, digital advertising is expected to comprise as much as 20 percent of online gaming revenues two years from now.

In a report released sometime in February this year, Piper Jaffray & Co. Internet Media and Marketing's research team said that global online advertising revenue may reach $81.1 billion in 2011.



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US call center to sell Ortigas Center facility

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN CALL CENTER FIRM Global Sky Inc. yesterday announced it would sell its fully operational site at the Ortigas Center, not because it was a losing venture but that it had outgrown the facility.

Company founder and chief executive James R. Stinton said in a statement Global Sky's 70-seat call center at the Raffles Building on F. Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City was now too small for its growing business.

"We have expanded to a location suitable for 500 agents, and we are selling this 70-seat office because we want to consolidate everything in the new location," Stinton said.

He added Global Sky would ask for $150,000 for the complete turnkey office on the eighth floor of Raffles Building.

Anthony Stinton, Global Sky chief operating officer, said it was rare for a successful call center to sell a completely functional office.

"Usually, if a call center is selling, it is because they are going out of business, and in a scenario like that you should be suspicious of what you are buying," the COO said.

Global Sky was put up in 2004 and currently has at least 120 employees, including those in its office in Las Vegas, Nevada. According to a profile of the company, its clients include "two of the top Fortune 500 companies, as well as medium-sized fast growth companies, as reported in Business 2.0 and Entrepreneur Magazine."

"(We are a center for) inbound calls, and we incorporate the best practices from the US to ensure that (clients') operation transitions smoothly and efficiently," Global Sky said. "Savings should not mean sacrifice."

Also, Global Sky is currently in the process of "rigorous" hiring to ensure that only top quality agents get in.

Cable group bucks ...

From page B3

TV and has allowed Smart, which handles billing for the myTV service, to continue the demo as long as it is offered for free.

myTV is being offered in partnership between Smart Communications Inc. and 360 Media Corp., formerly GV Broadcasting Systems Inc., a licensed broadcast company. 360 Media is a wholly owned subsidiary of MediaQuest Holdings Inc.

Commission on Audit
Regional Office No. 10

Construction of Provincial Satellite Auditing Office
Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract

Name of Contract	Construction of Provincial Satellite Auditing Office
Location	Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Furnishing of labor and materials (Straight Contract)
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	Nine Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand One Hundred Two and 72/100 (Php 9,852,102.72)
Contract Duration	180 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 11-17, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility forms	October 11-17, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 24, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 25, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25-31, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	November 6, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 18, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Commission on Audit Regional Office No. 10, Carmen Cagayan de Oro City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)* to the Cashier of the Commission on Audit Regional Office No. 10. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)* to the Cashier of the Commission on Audit Regional Office No. 10.

The Commission on Audit Regional Office No. 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) FELIX P. ALBINDA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 10, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

IAEB No. 2007-047-Goods

LASER PRINTERS

Supply and delivery of one hundred ninety (190) units Laser Printer as replacement of outdated units for office automation use

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) intends to apply the sum of P4,940,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the acquisition of one hundred ninety (190) units Laser Printer, which shall be charged against SSS CY2007 Approved Budget for Computer Operations

   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the proposed acquisition of Laser Printers. Supply and delivery of the GOODS are required within thirty (30) calendar days after contract signing/receipt of Purchase Order (PO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **P2,500.00**. The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The SSS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 26, 2007 at 2:00p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **November 09, 2007 not later than 2:00p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on **November 09, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address

9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Oct. 10, 2007)

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Our Dearly Beloved

Jaime A. San Juan

Oct. 16, 1951 – Oct. 11, 1991

On his 16th feast day we treasure all the beautiful memories as a wonderful husband to **Luz Uy San Juan** and as an excellent father to **Jamaica SJ Esparas** and son-in-law **Ruel M. Esparas**, **Jussein San Juan** and daughter-in-law **Vanessa S. San Juan**. His grandchildren **Jaime Luz**, **Jameson**, **Jaime Florentino**, **Jaime Luz San Juan** and **Jasmine Lui San Juan**.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul at the following:

St. Mary's Catholic Church	Marysville Washington 98271 USA	12:00 NN
St. Sylvester Church	Staten Island, New York City New York, USA	7:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Church	86-45 Edgarton Blvd. Jamaica New York City, New York, USA	7:00 AM
St. Francis of Assissi Church	135 West 31st St., New York	7:00 AM
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	Anchorage Alaska, USA	7:00 AM
St. Basils Church	3611 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California, USA	6:00 AM
St. Brendan Church	Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, California, USA	
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	3722 Boyce Ave., Los Angeles CA, 90039	7:00 AM
St. Peter & St. Paul Catholic Community	9135 Banyan St., Alta Loma, CA 91701	7:30 AM
Holy Family Cathedral	800 West 5th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska	6:00 AM
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church	2901 E. Huffman Road Anchorage, Alaska	6:00 AM
St. Benedict Catholic Church	8110 Jewel Lake Anchorage, Alaska	6:00 AM
St. Anthony Catholic Church	825 S. Klevin St., Anchorage, Alaska	6:00 AM
Holy Cross Parish Church	2627 Lore Road Anchorage, Alaska	6:00 AM
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish	4234 Sto. Tomas, Batangas	6:00 AM
Church of St. John Evangelista	Tanauan City, Batangas	5:15 AM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mary Mediatrix of All Grace	Lipa City	6:00 AM
Parish of St. Sebastian	Lipa City	7:00 AM
Pink Sister Adoration Convent of Divine Mercy	Holy Spirit Dr., Brgy. Mailim, 2nd East 4120, Tagaytay City	6:20 AM
St. Martin of Tours Parish	G. Marella St., Taal 4208, Batangas	6:00 AM
Parish of St. James the Great	Ayala Alabang, Village Muntinlupa City	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Antipolo Cathedral	P. Oliveros St., Antipolo City	6:00 AM
Parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Barasoain Malolos, Bulacan	6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag	Manaoag, Pangasinan 2430	7:00 AM

In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary of

"Titing"
ERIBERTO R. ALCALA

who passed away on October 10, 2006
in Sun Valley, California, U.S.A.

The Holy Mass will be offered for the eternal repose of his soul at the following churches:

October 10, 2007

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	*Quiapo, Manila*	5:00 AM
Metropolitan Cathedral	*San Fernando, Pampanga*	5:30 AM
Mother of Perpetual Help	*Baclaran, Pasay City*	5:30 AM
Christ the King Church	*Project 7, Quezon City*	6:00 AM/7:00 PM
Franciscan Sisters' Convent	*Baybay, Leyte*	6:00 AM
Marian Missionaries Chapel	*Silay City, Negros, Occidental*	6:00 AM
Monastery of Saint Clare Church	*Sariaya, Quezon*	6:00 AM
Notre Dame Des Victoires Church	*San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*	6:00 AM
Saint Ferdinand Cathedral Church	*Lucena City*	6:00 AM
Saint Francis of Assisi Church	*Sariaya, Quezon*	6:00 AM
Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish	*Araneta Avenue, Caloocan City*	6:00 AM
San Pedro Bautista Church	*Candelaria, Quezon*	6:00 AM
Saint Patrick's Church	*San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*	6:00 AM
Saint Peter the Apostle Parish	*Apalit, Pampanga*	6:00 AM
Adoration Convent of Divine Mercy	*Brgy. Maitim II East, Tagaytay City*	6:30 AM
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary	*Barrio San Jose, Tagaytay City*	6:30 AM
Ina ng Laging Saklolo	*Barangay Sungay, Tagaytay City*	6:30 AM
Monastery of Saint Clare	*Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish	*Bell-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 AM
Saint Mary's Cathedral	*San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*	6:30 AM
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace	*Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Holy Cross Parish Church	*Padre Burgos, Quezon*	6:45 AM
Our Lady of Grace Parish	*Grace Park, Caloocan City*	6:45 AM
Sto. Domingo Church	*Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish	*Kamuning, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
Saint Joseph Shrine	*Project 3, Quezon City*	7:00 AM/6:00 PM
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish	*Balintawak, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
Saint Paul the Apostle Parish	*Timog Avenue, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
San Roque Cathedral	*Mabini Street, Caloocan City*	7:00 AM
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish	*Poblacion, Makati City*	7:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio	*Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM
Santuario Del Sto. Cristo	*San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:30 AM
All Saint's Church	*Queen's Road, Hersham, Surrey, England*	9:30 AM
Montserrat Basilica De Sta. Maria	*Montserrat, Barcelona, Spain*	11:00 AM
Patriarcale Basilica Di Santa Maria Maggiore	*Rome, Italy*	11:00 AM
The Blue Army Shrine	*Washington, New Jersey, USA*	12:00 NN
Lourdes Parish Church	*Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City*	5:30 PM

October 11, 2007

Capella de la Boccinta, Basilica Di San Pietro	*Vatican City*	7:00AM

EMILIANO "TOTO" MONTEREY FELICIANO, JR.

of Sta. Lucia, San Fernando, Pampanga
peacefully joined his Creator on October 08, 2007

His bereaved wife, **CECILIA "Cecille" Vitug Feliciano**; children **ANN, CRISEL** and **KATRINA**; and sister **AIDA FELICIANO BARRIOS**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven. His cremains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be at the Heritage Park on Saturday, 13 October 2007 at 11:30 a.m. after the 10 o'clock Holy Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

Divine comedy at Encore!

TRYING TO HELP A foundation raise funds for its noble objectives has never been this entertaining until now at a dinner concert entitled Encore! on Oct. 22, 6 p.m. at Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.

The guests will surely enjoy the show prepared by the legendary comedienne Mitch Valdez, together with other great performers Audie Gemora, Menchu Launchengco-Yulo and the world class Dance Sport Champions led by Ednah Ledesma.

Encore! is an event staged by the Bahay ng Diyos Foundation, Inc. with International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) and Asian Terminals, Inc. as co-presenters to raise funds for the renovation of churches in the country. According to Noemi Saludo, the president of the foundation, they are very grateful with the strong support that they are receiving from sponsors and media partners.

Saludo, on behalf of the foundation, would like to thank Winace Holdings Phils., Inc, Splash Corporation, UEM-Mara Philippines Corporation, People's Aircargo and Warehousing Co., Inc. and Port Users Confederation, Inc. for their unwavering support to this event. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, The Manila Times, RJTV, iFM 93.9, Veritas 846, Magic 89.9 and RMN Manila.

For Inquiries, please contact Bahay ng Diyos Foundation Secretariat at telephone numbers 531-1182 and 531-4701 or cellphone no. 0917-5339685.

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MGfnd (Subic) Incorporated
Lot-P1, Phase 1, SBIP, Rizal Highway, Corner Perimeter Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Tel. No. (047) 252-2541

(PDI – OCT. 3, 10 & 17, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province Eastern Samar
Municipality Hernani

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the Public that JOHN LUCKY DE LIRA ELPEDES has filed with this office a *Migrant Petition for Change of First Name* from "LUCKY" to "JOHN LUCKY" in the birth certificate of JOHN LUCKY DE LIRA ELPEDES who was born on 24 November 1983 at Makati, Metro Manila and whose parents are NESTOR LAPIDO ELPEDES and LEONIDA ROSTATA DE LIRA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than October 17, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHARITO CALVADORES-ABERIA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 10 & 17, 2007)

METRO ILOILO WATER DISTRICT
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 337-4744; 337-8482; 337-3235;
(033) 337-3246; 337-3272; 335-0147
Fax No. (033) 336-6538

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contracts:

Item No.	Qty.	Name of Contracts	Approved Budget for the Contract	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	PCAB Category	Contract Duration
1	1 lot	Construction of Warehouse Building at Water Treatment Plant Compound, Brgy. Talanghauan, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo	P5,791,267 15	P2,500.00	C or D	120 cds
2	1 lot	Replacement of Old ACP Pipeline from Molo Plaza to Arevalo Plaza, Iloilo City	P1,754,480.00	P1,000.00	C or D	120 cds

Prospective bidders should have the experience in pipeline or related works with a contract amount of at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

Bid Documents and additional information may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat, Second Floor of the MIWD Building, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City.

The schedule of procurement activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement	October 10-16, 2007
2. Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	October 16-22, 2007, 2:00 pm
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Eligibility Check	October 23, 2007, 2:00 pm
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 24-31, 2007
5. Pre-bid Conference	November 5, 2007, 2:00 pm
6. Deadline of Submission of Bids	November 13, 2007, 10:00 am
5. Opening of Bids	November 13, 2007, 10:00 am

The MIWD BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, declare a failure of bidding for any justified and reasonable ground, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC, is most advantageous to the District.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MARY JEANNE M. VILLAGRACIA**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 10, 2007)

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ERRATUM

In the advertisement of Supreme Court of the Philippines-JBC published in this paper on September 14, 2007 re: "*With the* ***execution*** *of the representative af the law students' sector*," the word execution should have read **exception**.

Our apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, City of San Fernando
Healthline (045) 963-7148; 961-3991; 963-3757; 860-0020
www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. III-07-006

PhilHealth Regional Office III (PRO III), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all duly registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Twenty-Three (23) units of Printers
Location : PhilHealth Bldg. Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description : Nine (9) Dot Matrix Printers and Fourteen (14) Laserjet Printers
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 2,135,000.00
Delivery Period: Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 08 to 15, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 16, 2007 at 1:30 PM
3. Opening of Bids	October 29, 2007 at 1:30 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	October 29, 2007
5. Post-Qualification	October 30 to November 6, 2007
6. Notice of Award	November 7, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,100.00 to the Cashier of PRO III.

(Sgd.) **PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION**
Chairperson, PRO III Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- October 5 & 10, 2007)

WELCOME TO ROYAL HIGHNESS "SHABU-SHABU SPECIAL." Shown ready to accommodate you are from left Chef Caesar Garcia, F&B Head Mr. Albert Abergas, Master Chef Boni Lumot and the seasoned Hotel Consultant Mr. Rafael S. Chico. Come and dine and reserve your personalize table at Tel. No. 8990344 local 4108.

In Loving Memory

ON THE
1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

BRIGIDA JAUCIAN HILADO

October 19, 1914 - October 10, 2006

Her family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CARAGA
Butuan City
Pizarro Street, Corner Narra Road
Tel. # (085) 342-52-08 / 342-5667 / FAX – 225-2970

INVITATON FOR BIDS

October 8, 2007
Loan No. 1668-PH : Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No. DOH-SPISP – S – 1 Schedule 1
DOH-SPISP – S – 2 Schedule 2
Deadline for bids : November 8, 2007

1. The Department of Health has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through National Irrigation Administration (NIA) toward the cost of Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Schedule 1, Supply and Delivery of Four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4) and Ten (10) units two-wheel motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4) and Ten (10) units two-wheel motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine.
3. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage; One Envelope procedure
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health (CHD) Caraga and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below during workdays from 0800 Hours to 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time.
5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 starting October 22, 2007, Philippine Standard Time, at the DOH-CHD Cashier. The prospective bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally. A Pre-bidding Conference shall be open to all who secured the bidding documents will be held on October 25, 2007 at the DOH-CHD Conference Hall, Butuan City.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below, in sealed envelope either delivered by hand or by registered mail on or before November 8, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of

SCHEDULE 1	Bank Guarantee 1.7%	Cash, Certified Checks, Cashier Checks Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit 1.2%	Surety Bond 2.7%
Four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4)	Php 96,050.00	Php 67,800.00	Php 152,550.00

SCHEDULE 2	Bank Guarantee 1.7%	Cash, Certified Checks, Cashier Checks Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit 1.2%	Surety Bond 2.7%
Ten (10) Units Two Wheel Motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine	Php 12,750.00	Php 9,000.00	Php 20,250.00

in the form of Bank Guarantee, Irrevocable letter of credit and Cashier's or Manager's Check. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the DOH-CHD Caraga, Butuan City Conference Hall at 9:00 a.m. on November 8, 2007.

7. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
8. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Pizarro St. Cor. Narra Road, Butuan City
Telephone No.: (085) 342-52-08
Facsimile No.: (085) 225-29-70

(Sgd.) LEONITA P. GORGOLON, MD., MHA, MCHM
Director IV

(PDI–Oct. 10 & 17, 2007)

LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC) through its Committee on Bids and Awards (CBA), invites all contractors, registered with and classified at least "(SMALL/MEDIUM)" by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

BRANCH OFFICE	CONTRACT DURATION/FUNDING	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
LBP ISULAN BRANCH RENOV/RELAYOUT	75 CD, LBP FUND	P 3,498,259.69
LBP G. ARANETA BRANCH RENOVATION- RE-BID	60 CD, LBP FUND	P 470,000.00
LBP PASEO DE ROXAS BRANCH RENOVATION	50 CD, LBP FUND	P 751,528.09
LBP CAMP CRAME BRANCH RENOVATION	60 CD, LBP FUND	P 1,773,748.58

The Schedule of CBA activities are as follows:

Activities	Date/Time	Venue
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	OCT. 10-17, 2007 @ 9:30- 4:30PM	LBRDC
2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	OCT. 17-24, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30PM	LBRDC
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	OCT. 25, 2007 @ 2:30PM	LBRDC
4. Issuance of Bidding Documents	OCT. 26 - Nov. 05, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30PM	LBRDC
5. Pre Bidding Conference	NOVEMBER 06, 2007 @ 2:00PM	LBRDC
6. Opening of Bids (Bidding)	NOVEMBER 19, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	LBRDC

LBRDC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC) Offices at the 30/F Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts. Malate, Manila upon their submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI), presentation of the original copy of their contractor's license issued by PCAB, and upon payment of non-refundable and non-transferable fee of P500.00 (for projects below P10M). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements and may obtain the results of the Eligibility Checks based on the schedule above. Bid Documents are available for issuance to eligible bidders as scheduled above upon presentation of Notice of Eligibility to the CBA and payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. (for projects below P5M), P1,500.00 (for projects P5M to 10M) & P2,000.00 (for projects above 10M).

LBRDC reserves the right to change the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to LBRDC. Furthermore, LBRDC is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expense or loss that contractor may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

For further details, please call Mr. Allan Redondo/Aries L. Mendoza/ Nanette Camingawan at 405-7169/ 405-7402/405-7135.

(SGD) ENGR. SERGIO R. BERNARDO
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI--Oct. 10, 2007)

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VICTOR R. POTENCIANO
MEDICAL CENTER

Announces with deep sorrow that their

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit

May 31, 1919 - October 6, 2007

Has peacefully returned to his Almighty Creator

His remains lie in state at the
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish Church
Duke St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

Necrological Service and Tribute will be offered by
the hospital management and staff
on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 6:30 p.m. at the
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish Church
Duke St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE COLLEGES

Announces with deep sorrow that their

PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit

May 31, 1919 - October 6, 2007

Has peacefully returned to his Almighty Creator

His remains lie in state at the
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish Church
Duke St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

Necrological Service and Tribute will be offered by the
management, faculty and students on
Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 12:00 p.m. at the
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish Church
Duke St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

More Classified Ads

DOLE-NCR	A26
DOLE-Reg IV	A27
Western Visayas Sanitarium	A27
Comelec Announcement	A27
PEZA Bataan	A30
COMELEC	A30
Commission on Foreign Overseas Workers	A31
Commission on Audit	B7
Social Security System	B7

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Beloved Father

FELIZARDO OGALESCO TUQUERO, SR.

(1925 - 2007)

Fondly called "Zardo" & "Daddy" by his relatives and friends in Oco, Viga, Catanduanes and in Sta. Ana, Manila, joined the Lord and Mama Charing, our dear mother on October 4, 2007 at the age of 82.

We, children and in-laws, Billie and Ruben, Boy and Fe, William and Judy, Mito and Jane, Raul; grandchildren: Betsy, Baby, Laurene, Mark, Paul, Sherryl, King, Pher, Kikoy, Bisoy, Karlo, Munding, Joanne, Rose Anne, Ruby Anne, Andrew and Bea; great-grandchildren: Malan, Kaye, Cleo, Justin, Julian, Yen Yen will miss the love and kindness that he gave us all. The happy memories spent together are forever etched deep in our hearts.

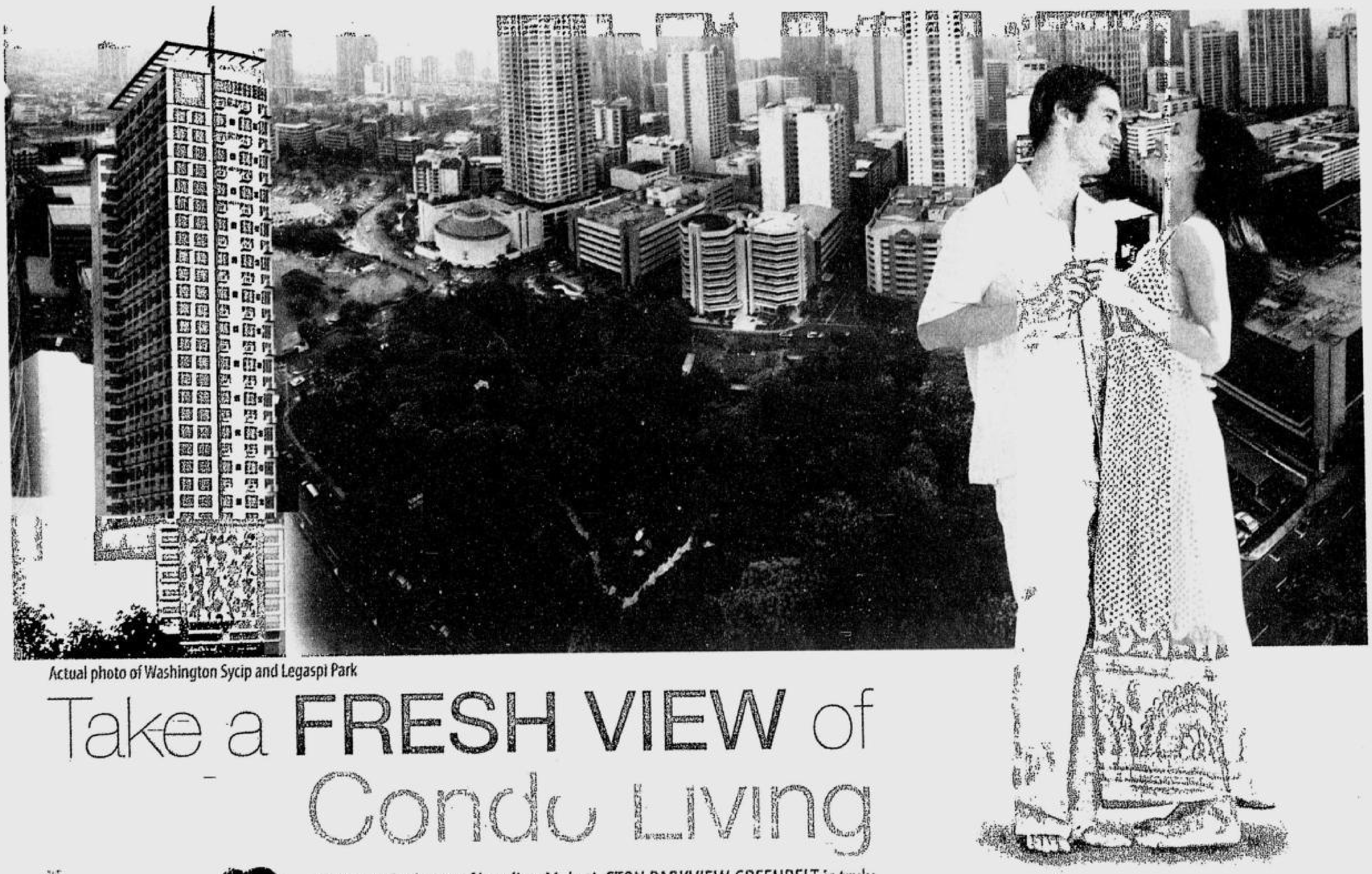
Readers are kindly asked to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Daddy's body lies in state at the Felicidad Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. at 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. He will finally be interred at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park in Tandang Sora, Quezon City on October 13, 2007, Saturday, at 2:00 in the afternoon.

There will be Masses at Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, Peñafrancia Basilica, San Francisco Parish Church, St. Jude Parish and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Convent Chapel.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..." *Ecclesiastes 3:11*

ETON PARKVIEW GREENBELT



Actual photo of Washington Sycip and Legaspi Park

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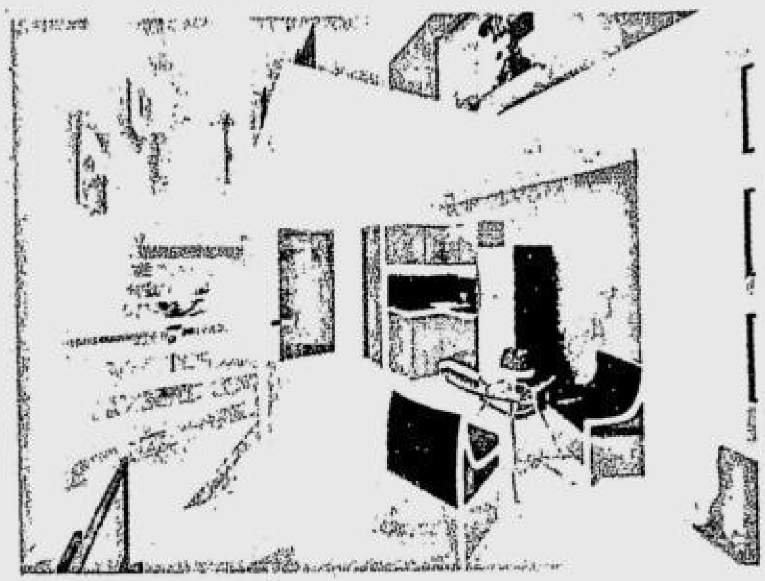

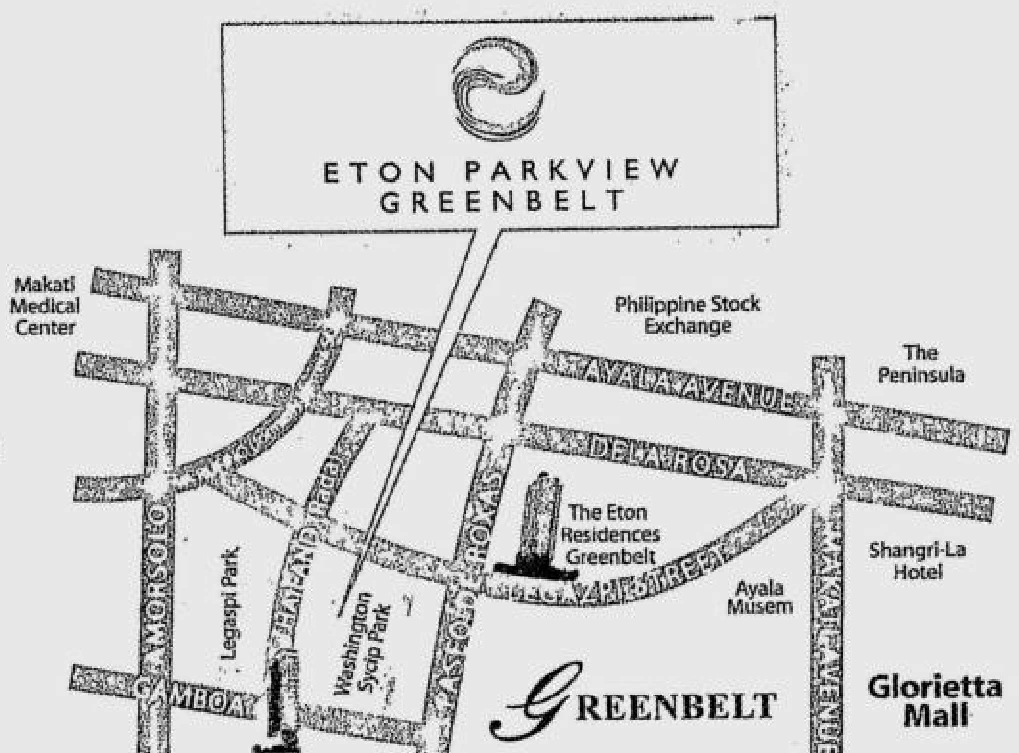
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ROXAS
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You are cordially invited to a cocktail property preview to be held on the 10th of October at 6:00 pm at Cena Restaurant, Ground Level, Greenbelt, Makati City

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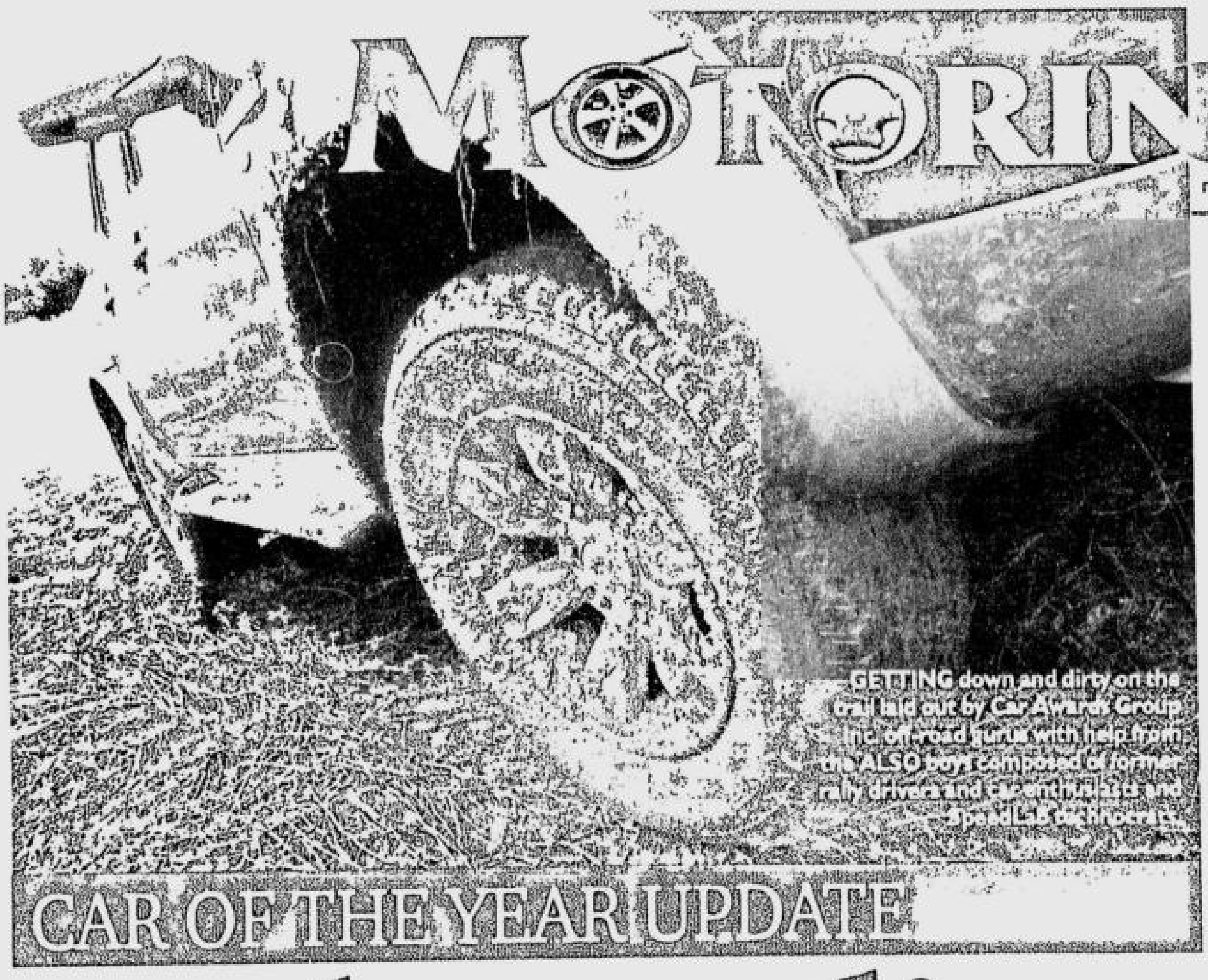


GETTING down and dirty on the trail laid out by Car Awards Group Inc. off-road gurus with help from the ALSO boys composed of former rally drivers and car enthusiasts and SpeedLab technocrats.

CAR OF THE YEAR UPDATE

Mud wrestling for off-road candidates

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

LET'S GET READY TO r-r-r-rumble! Ahem. No, this isn't a replay of the just-concluded Pacquiao-Barrera rematch. This is, well, dirtier.

And the boys—and some girls—loved talking and driving dirty. It was the road **not** traveled that had its turn testing Car of the Year candidates' mettle last Saturday in Southwoods in Cavite near the San Lazaro horse racing track.

Welcome change

The Car Awards Group Inc. test-fest committee had its hands full designing a mini mud trail. It was a welcome change from the usual paved-road tests for Coty journalists during the past Saturdays when they tested road-bound sedans.

Up for the dirty test this time were 4x4 pickups Ford Ranger, Isuzu D-Max, Mitsubishi Strada GLS sport, and the Toyota Hi-Lux.

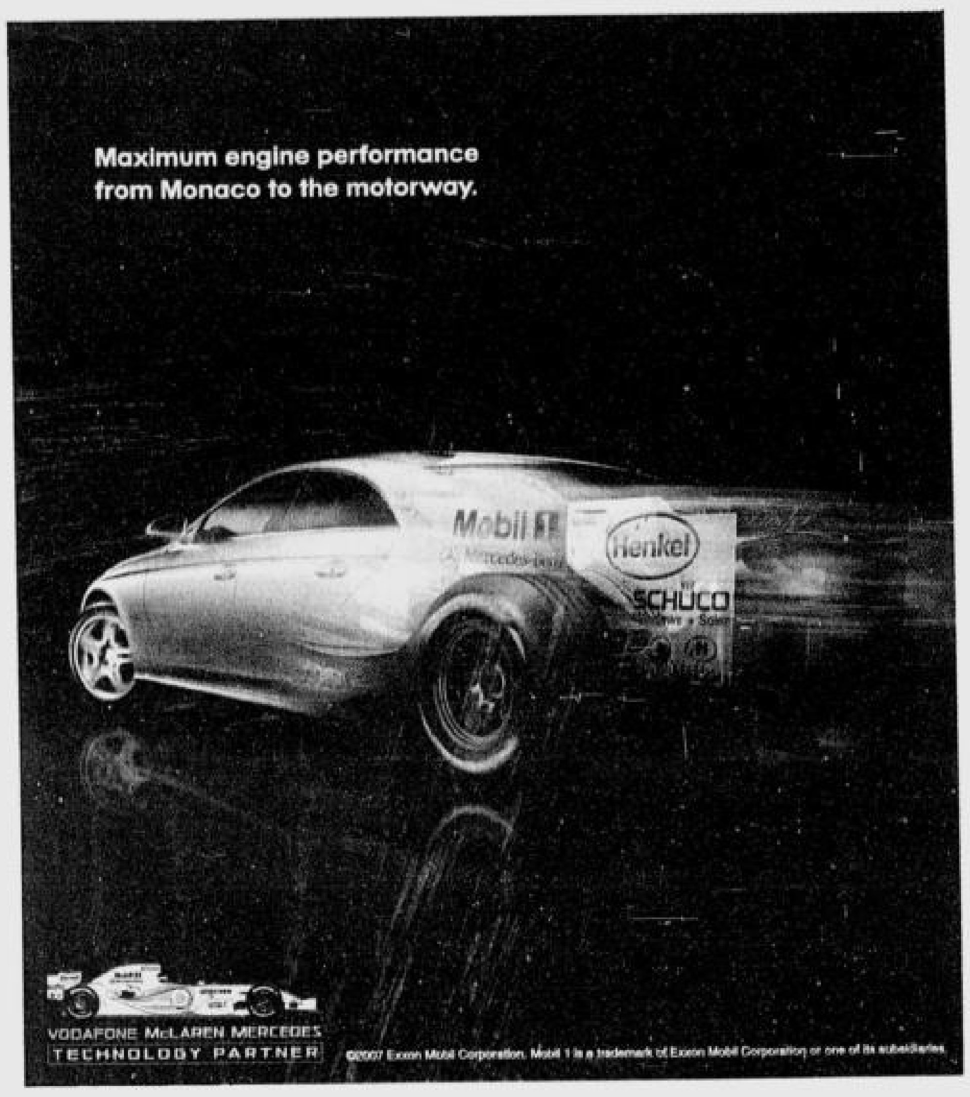
The 4x2 versions of the Ranger, D-Max and Strada GLX, as well as other vehicles such as the Isuzu Crosswind, Mitsubishi Fuzion, Toyota Previa, Chrysler Town and Country and the BMW X5 were also tested on paved-road conditions.

The "mud wrestlers" came in all shiny and new, their manufacturer-owners unaware that all that hard work getting them washed before the test would amount to nothing.

All about performance

It was all about performance, not the looks. But before getting down and dirty, the 4x4s were put in their paces during normal, on-road tests. Afterward, it was wallowing time for the brutes. The off-road tests were meant to test the effectiveness of the vehicle's LSD (limited slip dif-

MUD/ B2-2



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The everyday driving shoe

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

I HAVE EXACTLY ONE PAIR OF FORMAL leather shoes. Until the use of real leather, mercilessly stripped from cows, becomes a crime in the foreseeable future, this is probably going to be my last pair. Solid construction coupled with the fact that I hate wearing them is the reason I'm predicting a long, long boring life span for this pair.

Make no mistake; these shoes are beautiful and relatively comfortable. Yet they cannot fulfill the single most important act that my feet perform on a daily basis—simply that I can't drive in them. While wearing them, my feet feel like they are encased in blocks of concrete. Well, ok, maybe blocks of Jell-O.

A staple in my arsenal

Driving shoes have been a staple in my inventory, or daresay my arsenal, for a good decade or so. A good pair of shoes can make the difference between things as simple as driving related bunions or as critical as good lap times. Add to that the fact that there are some of us who do more driving than walking on a daily basis.

Well why not just go out to your local mall and buy any of the motor sport branded lines that the major sneaker players carry? Or if you have some of the Imeldific in your veins, why not blow major cash on an Italian job labeled as a driving shoe? The answer is simple really. Neither do their job well at a practical price. The fact is there are shoes out there that despite being designed for other purposes or sports, do the job quite sufficiently at a fraction of the cost. One just needs to identify a shoe's features that will make them suitable for serious driving.

The most critical part of any driving shoe is logically the outsole. One needs grip and flexibility, think of it as a glove for your feet.

Personal test

My personal test is that if the throttle and brakes can be operated comfortably and without slipping just with the big toes, the shoes have promise. While you are really operating the pedals with the balls of your feet, using them in conjunction with your toes helps for a little more modulation in critical situations like trying not to lock up under braking or feathering the throttle for a little understeer and oversteer action.

Next on the list for the shoe to pass the test is a pivot pad on the heel, often a direct extension of the nonslip compound of the outsole itself. This portion is critical for when your right foot pivots from the accelerator to the brake pedal and for the times when your left foot has to slide over from the clutch to the brakes.

Not just a matter of taste

The shoe's exterior or upper is not altogether just a matter of taste. Two things are critical here. First is that the shoe must have a decent system of laces that keeps secure in the most rigorous of footwork sessions. Slip on, strap on shoes just don't stay in place and your foot tends to shift about a lot in them.

Last is the material of the upper. While the dull sheen of suede best mimics the fireproof materials of professional FIA-approved race boots, they just don't hold up to the tropical conditions of our country. Synthetic materials work best; they are resistant to the petroleum products that will inevitably find their way onto your shoes. If you drive as much as I do, you probably tool around as much too.

What's best for me

Lightweight futsal shoes work best for me. Their pliable, flat gum soles and shiny leather uppers are their strongest features. Some even have the critical pivot pad on their heels. Other indoor sports shoes like badminton and martial arts also work well, with the latter really ideal.

In the end, trial and error will be the best judge for what works best for you. Go out there, experiment. See what gives you that balance of everyday comfort and performance in critical situations. When you find ones that work, their value is far beyond the money you spend. They become a critical part of your driving even just as a psychological booster. Just how critical you may ask? I have seven.

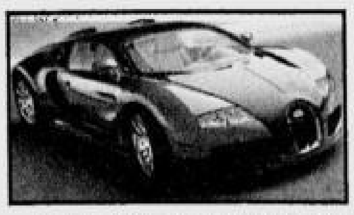
TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Drive the world's most expensive cars

IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS, THE YEAR WILL CAP OFF bringing the season to a perfect close. This year, a number of new car models have been unveiled, showing the best, the toughest, the most stylish, the fastest, and the superlatives go on.

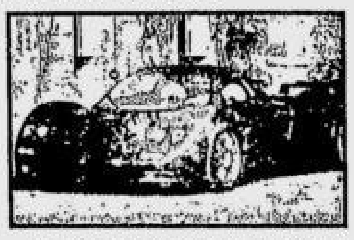
So while we wait for the next set of the popular Forbes' list of World's 10 Most Expensive Cars, let's look back and see what made it to the cut last year.



1. Bugatti Veyron 16.4 from France

Price: $1,192,057

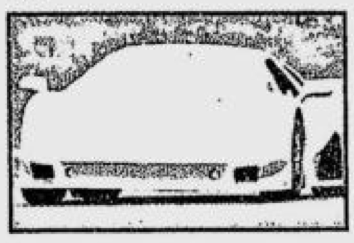
The Veyron uses a 16-cylinder, 1001-hp motor.



2. Pagani Zonda Roadster F C12S 7.3, Clubsport version from Italy

Price: $667,321 (global price)

Pagani is a boutique automaker that builds radical-looking race cars. This version of its Zonda flagship has 650 hp.



3. SSC Ultimate Aero from US

Price: $654,500 (US)

Believed to be the most expensive American car, also the fastest. Automaker SSC estimates the Ultimate Aero is capable of hitting 260 to 273 mph on the track. It uses a 1,046-hp V-8.

4. Leblanc Mirabeau from Switzerland

Price: $645,084, global

The Leblanc Mirabeau belongs on the racing track.

5. Saleen S7 Twin Turbo from US

Price: $637,723 in Europe

Price in US: $555,000

The S7 uses a 750-hp V-8. It can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in under three seconds.

6. Koenigsegg CCR from Sweden

Price: $545,568 in all regions except US

Price in US: $540,000

Koenigsegg's CCR uses an 806-hp V-8.

7. Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren from Germany

Price: $452,750 (US)

A mainstay on the list. The SLR McLaren is said to be as comfortable and sophisticated as a street-legal race car can be. The SLR is a collaboration between Mercedes and legendary British race car builder McLaren.

8. Maybach 62 from Germany

Price: $448,153 in Europe

Price in US: $385,250

Maybach's 62 ultra-luxury sedan is made by Mercedes-Benz

9. Porsche Carrera GT from Germany

Price: $440,000 (US)

The Carrera GT uses a 10-cylinder engine—a type of powerplant that is rarely seen outside of racing.

10. Maybach 57 S from Germany

Price: $430,355 in Europe

Price in US: $367,000

The 57 S is designed to be a sportier alternative to its other cars, the 57 and 62. It has more power than the 57 or 62, 604 hp versus 543.

Mitsubishi Strada pickups dominate August sales

STRADA
STRADA

WITHIN JUST BARELY A MONTH from its introduction, the combined sales of Strada 3.2 4x4 and the Strada 2.5 4x2 totaled 271 units. This enabled Mitsubishi Motors to lead the total pickup segment, capturing 36.8 percent share of the total 736 pickups sold in August.

The figures are based on the combined reports provided by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA).

Very pleased

"We are very pleased that the Strada is now the overall No.1 pickup in the market today. The strong market acceptance can be attributed mainly to its modern styling, advanced engine and drive-train technology, and outstanding value for money. We are also looking forward to the upward trend in our sales, especially with the good acceptance of the Strada plus our other new exciting models such as the Pajero, Outlander and Fuzion," said Froilan Dytianquin, MMPC assistant vice president for Marketing Services.

August year to date sales of total pickups grew by 44 percent compared to the same period last year. The total performance of the pickups was primarily boosted by sales of 4x4 which grew by 77 percent, having sold 2,473 this year versus 1,400 units during same period last year.

The new Strada 4x4 pickup mostly contributed to this growth as sales of this model grew from 261 last year to 1,372 this year or 462 percent. August year to date market share of the Strada in the 4x4 pickup category is 55.5 percent.

Motorshow promises exciting high for motorbike enthusiasts

LIKE THE PROVERBIAL ADRENALIN rush, the 8th Motorshow Cebu International at the Cebu International Convention Center on Oct. 16-21 promises an exciting high for motorbike enthusiasts whose love for speed has become more than just an ordinary interest.

"Riding is a passion," says Valeriano "Bobit" Avila of the Easy Riders Club, an exclusive organization of big motorbike owners, mostly original Harley Davidsons. "It's a dangerous thing and we don't pretend that it is not," he adds.

Love for big bikes

Despite the risks, though, Avila and his other club friends continue their love for big bikes, crisscrossing the countryside from Aparri to Davao. Mostly in their 40s, club members who come from different social backgrounds are joining Motorshow as a means of changing misconceptions about motorbikes and bike riders.

"Motorshow should help us in educating the public about bikes. Many people think that bikes are used as getaway vehicles for crimes. That's not true and we'd like to impart this message to everyone at the Motorshow," Avila explains.

Other clubs, on the other hand, promote civic concerns and tourism while on wheels.

"We join government and religious activities. We're the only dirt bike club comprising of professionals who started in 1997 with our Honda motorcycles," relates Nonoy Dalida, part of some 20 motorbike enthusiasts who call themselves as "Hero."

Socially relevant

Aged thirty-something to fifty-something, club members do anything socially relevant, from marshaling the Sinulog to giving gifts to poor families.

Although the group has previously joined seven national conventions and two transport shows, it is still as excited to promote motorbike tourism through the Motorshow Cebu International, the biggest gathering of vehicle industry stakeholders in Cebu.

The event is made possible by major sponsors including Cebu Artshoppe, Cebu Unique Trade Corp., Foxchit Business Systems Inc., Graphic Star, Petron Corp., Sara Lee Philippines Inc. (Ambi pur), Sony Philippines Inc. and Standard Manufacturing Corp. (Outlast).

"We would like to encourage people to explore the country. We want them to explore our hidden mountains. These are experiences that money cannot buy," Dalida emphasizes.

Unifying motorbike clubs

Another bikers' club called VMAX, founded in Cebu in 1998 with only 15 members, now has chapters in Dumaguete, Cagayan and Davao. Its members are professionals and businessmen aged 30 to 60.

But what makes the club stand out from the rest is its advocacy of unifying motorbike clubs all over the country.

"Among all the clubs, we're the only one that can promote real unity among bikers," relates club president Rolando Ting. To do this, the group travels around the country to establish linkages among bikers' organizations such as last Aug. 3-26 when its members motored to Leyte, Surigao, Butuan, Cagayan and General Santos.

VMAX also initiates an annual activity dubbed "Street Vibration" where members of all bike clubs get together and participate actively every third week of January.

Easy Riders, Hero and VMAX are just some of the many motorbike clubs that will add energy and color to the forthcoming Motorshow Cebu International, the only one of its kind and scale in Southern Philippines.

And like an adrenalin rush, you can catch their thrill only if you join the excitement!

SMORGASBORD of vehicles in their pageant-winning poses

Mud wrestling for off-road . . .

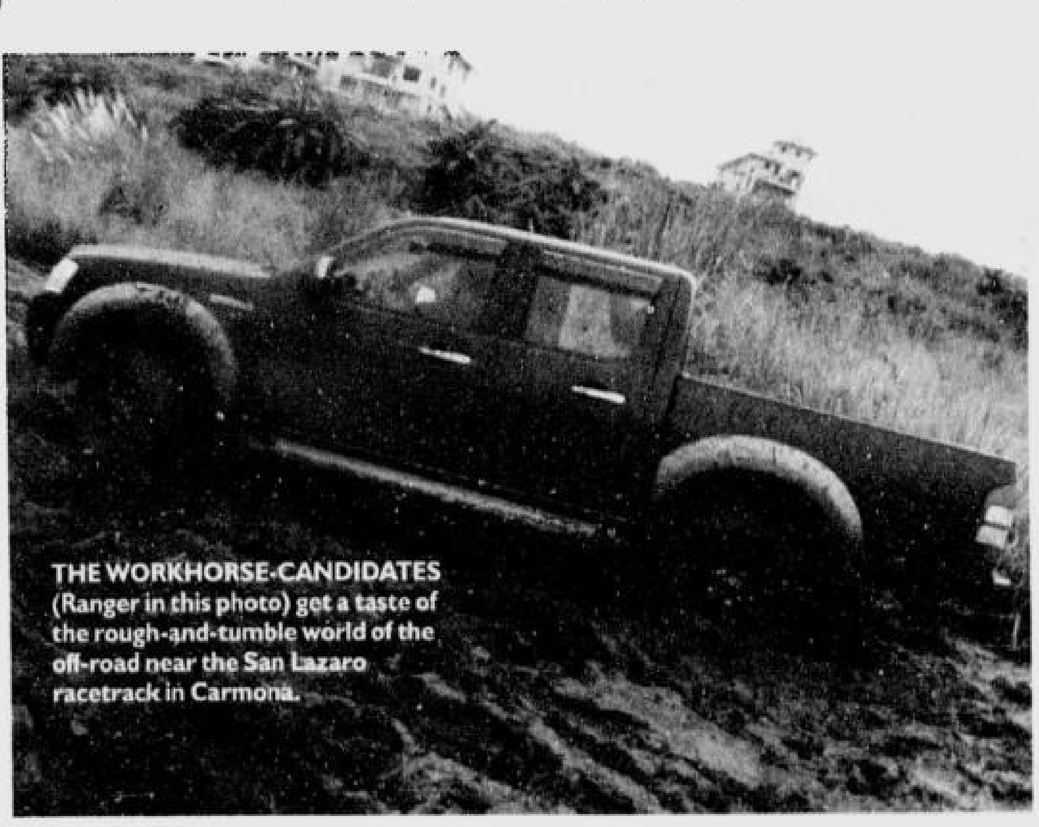
From page B2-1

ferential) capabilities, among other things, and to see if what the brochures put down in black and white were thicker than mud.

At the end of the day, the test drivers put their impressions on paper, tired but satisfied that this time, the horses they worked on didn't stir up dust as much as splattered mud all over the place. This was serious fun, folks. The result of the tests will not be known until the actual day of awarding sometime in November.

Sorry to keep you waiting, but even our boxing hero Manny had to flail away for 12 rounds to prove that in this world, there is none better (and we had to wait for so many hours more after to actually see how he did it, no thanks to the flurry of TV commercials).

The Petron 2007 Car of the Year-Philippines Awards, in cooperation with the Automobile Association Philippines, is also made possible through the support of partners The Manila International Auto Show, Rockwell Land, Bosch, Bridgestone, San Lazaro Leisure Park, Standard Insurance and San Miguel Corp. as well as sponsors Makati Skyline, Jollibee, Segafredo Zanetti, Concept One, Speedlab and Globe Telecom.



THE WORKHORSE-CANDIDATES (Ranger in this photo) get a taste of the rough-and-tumble world of the off-road near the San Lazaro racetrack in Carmona.

Ordinary bus . . .

From page B2-4

and only one in 10 who made it to college will finish his or her education.

"To do something about this, we thought of making reading materials available to more public elementary schoolchildren, whose libraries do not have adequate supply of reading materials. We should remember that a poor reader will most likely be a poor learner since a child who struggles to read loses a valuable tool to expand his or her knowledge," he said.

Vehicle needed

And with the San Francisco Public Library delivering a big donation of children's books and several La Salle alumni pooling their resources for the seed money as well as becoming volunteers, the program only needed a vehicle spacious enough to house the books and the equipment and bring the volunteers to the chosen site.

The answer came from several De La Salle alumni particularly the De La Salle Greenhills class of 1976 and 1984 as well as De La Salle University Mechanical Engineering class of 1981.

"The bus, which traveled from Bacolod City, was donated by La Salle alumni Ricardo Yanson Jr. of Vallacar Transit Inc. (Ceres Liner). We completed the bus by providing the stickers and labels, bookshelves, compartments for AV equipment and an air-con," reported ATI Group CEO Antonio Inducil who spearheaded the procurement of the bus.

He hoped that the BookMobile will just be the first of the many mobile libraries that the program will be able to deploy in the near future.

700 to 1,000 books

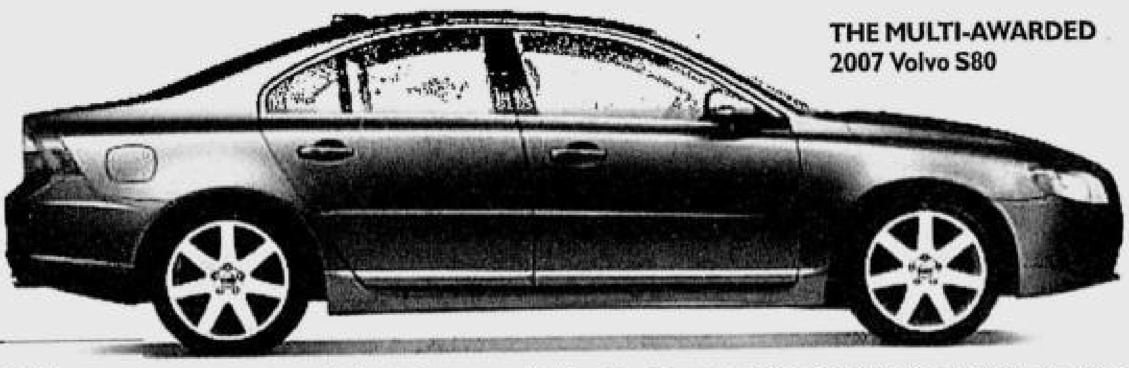
Designed as a mobile library, the bus carries 700 to 1,000 story books with the volunteers offering guided reading programs and book lending opportunities.

The BookMobile will also have volunteers who will conduct organized tutorial and remedial sessions in 3Rs (reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic) in order to provide schoolchildren a chance to enjoy the benefits of reading and learning," Pajarillo added.

He said reading and learning will best determine the success of any child's education, adding that children must first learn to read before they can subsequently read to learn.

Aside from deploying the BookMobile (the mobile bus went to Rafael Lojo Memorial Elementary School and Brion Silva Memorial Elementary School in Lipa, Batangas), the program aims to generate and establish a P20 million endowment fund to support the program.

Scandinavian design and the Volvo S80



THE MULTI-AWARDED 2007 Volvo S80

THE S80's ideal driving environment

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

TRADITIONALLY FAMOUS FOR ITS BOXY cars, Volvo is now thinking out of the box. "Safe and sexy" is reportedly the Swedish carmaker's new global advertising theme, if not its new design language. The most stunning example of the new wave is the Volvo C30 sports coupé with its trapezoidal rear glass panel.

Also less square, but in a less spectacular way, is the 2007 S80, which was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show in February 2006 and launched in Manila last May. The second generation of Volvo's flagship sedan is completely redesigned from the wheels up with rounded contours, sweeping lines and a longer wheelbase. It is taller and broader than its predecessor and the signature Volvo tail lights have a slimmer profile. So far this year, the S80 has garnered five awards from car magazines in the United States, Germany and Austria.

Built to compete in the mid-level premium sedan segment with the Mercedes-Benz E-Class, BMW 5 Series, Audi A6 and Lexus GS, the S80 pegs its appeal on its outstanding safety features and Scandinavian design. It has no pretensions at outrunning its sportier rivals, although the '07 model is offered with stronger engines: a 3.2-liter, 238-hp, inline six or, for the first time in a Volvo sedan, a 4.4-liter, 315-hp V8 with all-wheel-drive. These variants come with a six-speed Geartronic automatic transmission.

Performance

This is not to say that the more powerful S80 variants cannot stand up to the competition. Judging from the performance of the 2.5-liter, five-cylinder, DOHC, 20 valves with LPT (light pressure turbo) and CVVT (Continuously Variable Valve Timing) variant on the Skyway, I would never doubt an S80's capabilities. Producing 200 hp at 4,800 rpm and max torque of 300 Nm at 1,500-4,500 rpm, the top speed of the 2.5L S80 is claimed to be 230 km per hour. Since access to the engine's full potential of 300 Newton meters is available from only 1,500 revs, the 2.5L gets off to a fast start and achieves 100 kph from zero in 8.0 seconds with the six-speed Geartronic transmission.

But for me, the strengths of the S80, aside from its safety equipment, are its Scandinavian design and quiet, plush interior that is one of the most comfortable in the automotive industry. The all-new, stiffer chassis contributes to a more solid feel and allows better mounting points for a more sophisticated suspension consisting of hydraulic shock absorbers, coil springs and stabilizer bar fore and aft, McPherson strut up front and multilink independent suspension at the rear. The long wheelbase, wide track and high-strength boron steel of the torsionally rigid body contribute to safety and refined road manners.

Safety

The list of standard preventive and protective safety features runs to 17 items including Dynamic Stability and Traction Control (DSTC), Hydraulic Brake Assist (HBA), Ready Brake Assist (RAB), Active Bi-Xenon Lights, Inflatable Side Curtain, Side Impact Protection System, Side Impact Air Bags and Whiplash Protection Seating System. The brakes on the 17-inch alloy wheels are power-assisted antilocking discs with Electronic Brake Force Distribution and Fading Brake Support. New high-tech safety options like the Blind Spot Information System (BSIS) and Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) are available. Small wonder that the S80 won the IIHS 2007 Top Safety Pick Award in overall safety protection, outshining its German and Japanese rivals.

The transversely mounted engine makes possible a more spacious passenger compartment. The S80's interior reflects the Scandinavian concept of modern design: clean, smooth-flowing and versatile. It derives its elegance from craftsmanship and simplicity, yet there is something subtly sensual about its minimalist character. The layout of all items is well-placed to create a harmonious, user-friendly interior ambience. The slim, free-floating console that first appeared in the S40 has been further polished for the S80, with the climate control and infotainment buttons looking more upscale.

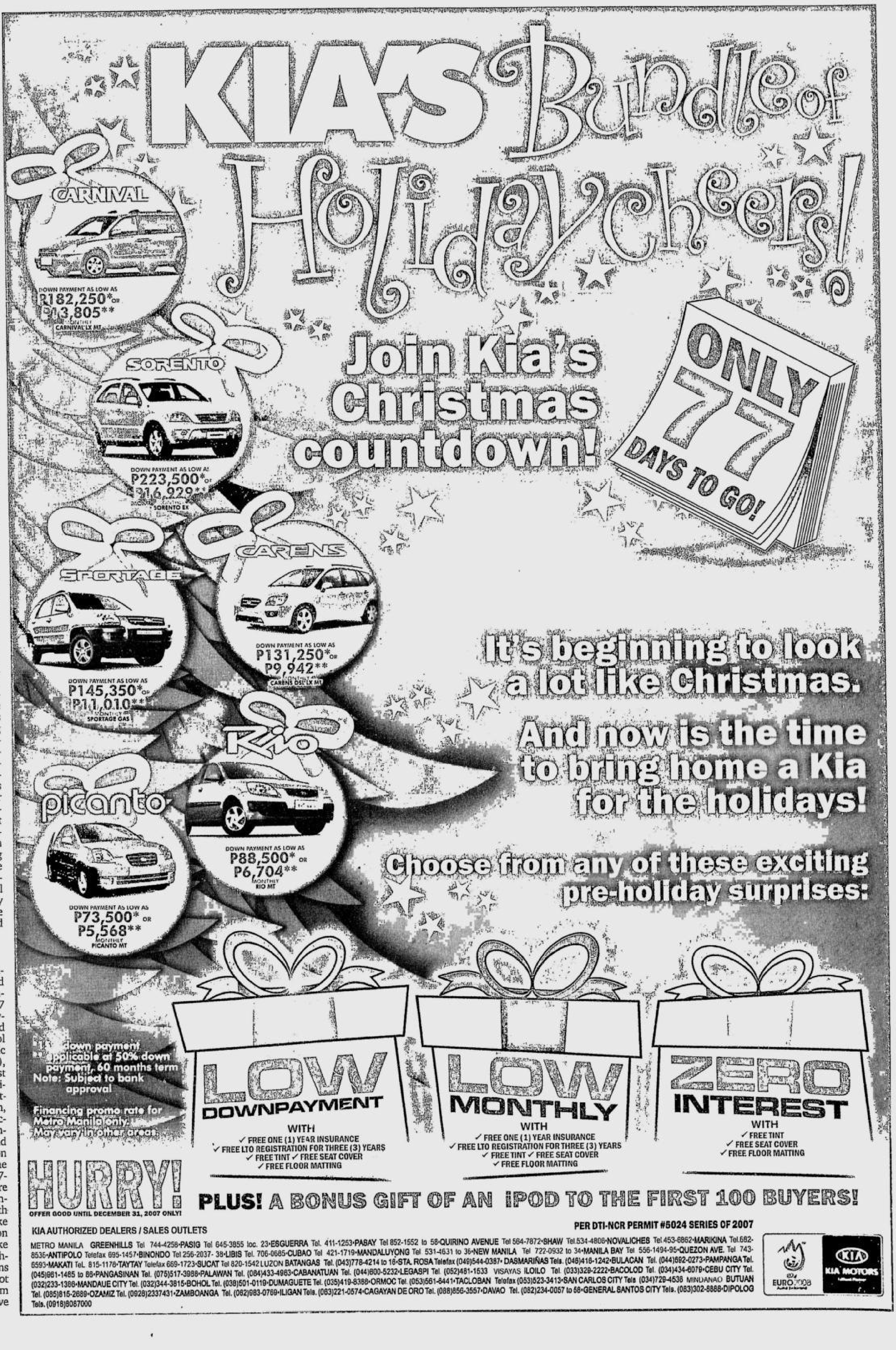
Handcrafted

The seats are fully upholstered in handcrafted soft leather while walnut wood trim in the leather-clad steering wheel (which has audio and cruise controls), dashboard, gear knob and door panels enhances the sensory experience of the cabin. The power-adjustable driver's seat has a memory function for up to three seat and door mirror settings and the rear backrest splits 40/60 and folds. In the 2.5L S80 (SRP: P3,450,000), the audio system is a high-performance AM/FM with 6-disc in-dash CD/MP3 player with AUX input, 2-outlet headphone socket and eight loudspeakers.

Summing up, the 2007 S80 may not embody the new "Safe and Sexy" marketing mantra of Volvo as sensationally as the C30 does, but neither does it belong to the dust bin of boxy, boring Volvos. And it's safer, handsomer, more luxurious and more comfortable than before while maintaining its price advantage over its competitors.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.



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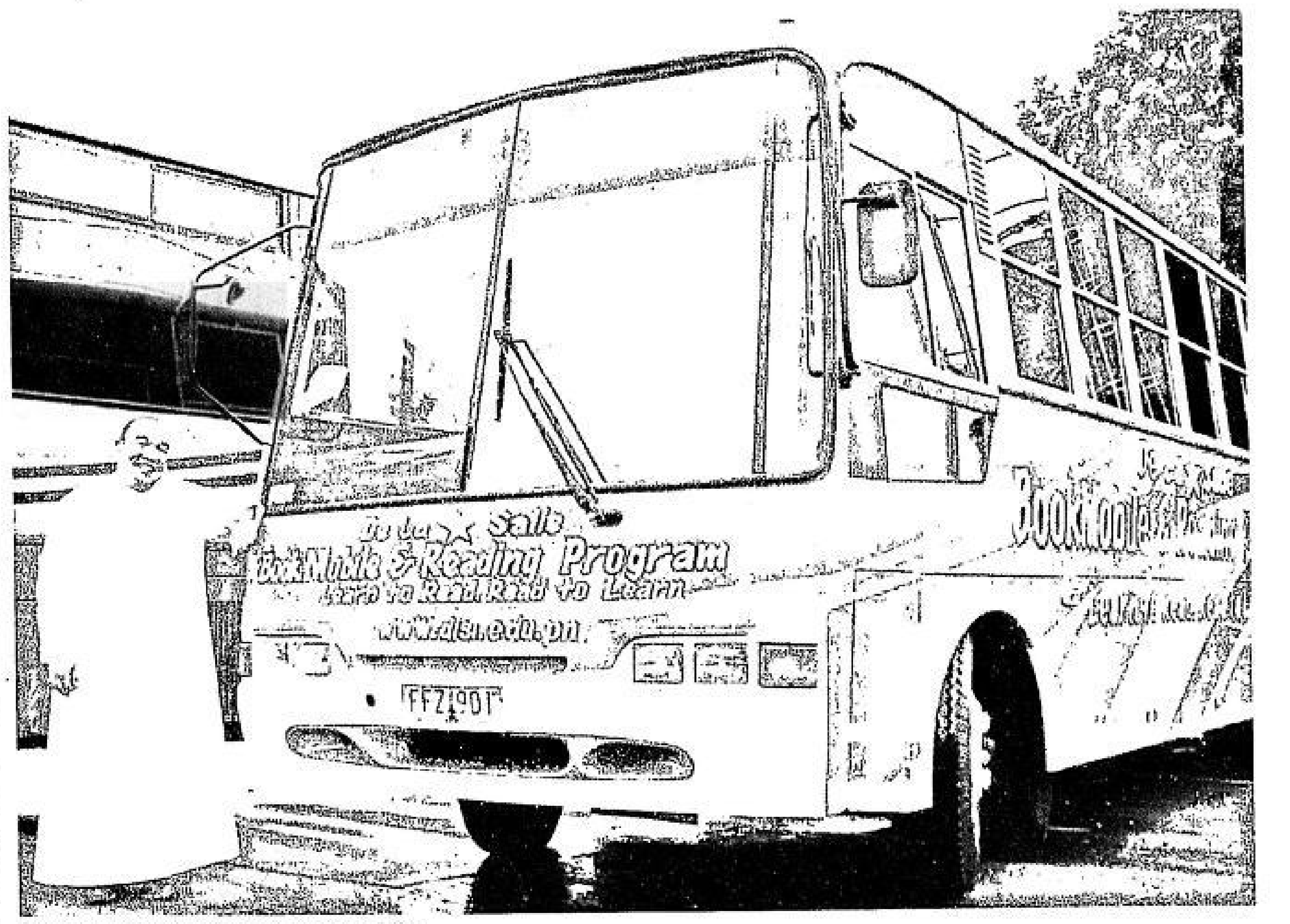
EURO 2008
KIA MOTORS

De La Salle
BookMobile & Reading Program
Learn to Read. Read to Learn.

THE LA SALLE program seeks to have more reading materials available to public elementary schoolchildren.



PAJARILLO with the first BookMobile

Ordinary bus transformed into roving library for schoolchildren

By Charles E. Buban

THIS IS ONE BUS schoolchildren would rather choose to stay on—and it won't be surprising if it gets the nod of their teachers and parents.

This is because instead of passengers, the 9-meter-long Isuzu microbus—christened the BookMobile Shuttle—is now stocked with books, fitted with audio-visual equipment and even an electric generator to run the DVD machine and LCD projector for the audio-visual materials for the children.

"The bus is the last piece of the puzzle: We now have something we could use to reach less privileged public elementary schoolchildren and give them access to quality reading and learning materials," said De La Salle Lipa president Bro. Mawel Pajarillo, FSC.

The BookMobile Shuttle is one component of the De La Salle BookMobile and Reading Program that Pajarillo conceived in 2004.

Alarming decline

The program seeks to address the alarming decline in reading abilities and literacy rate among the less privileged public elementary schoolchildren.

"Decline in reading in the Philippines have not gone unnoticed. While no single activity is responsible for the decline of reading, the cumulative presence and availability of other alternatives have increasingly took more and more Filipino schoolchildren away from reading," Pajarillo explained.

He cited that less than half of Filipino schoolchildren who enter high school will graduate

ORDINARY/ B2-2

PAJARILLO believes that children must first learn to read before they can subsequently read to learn.

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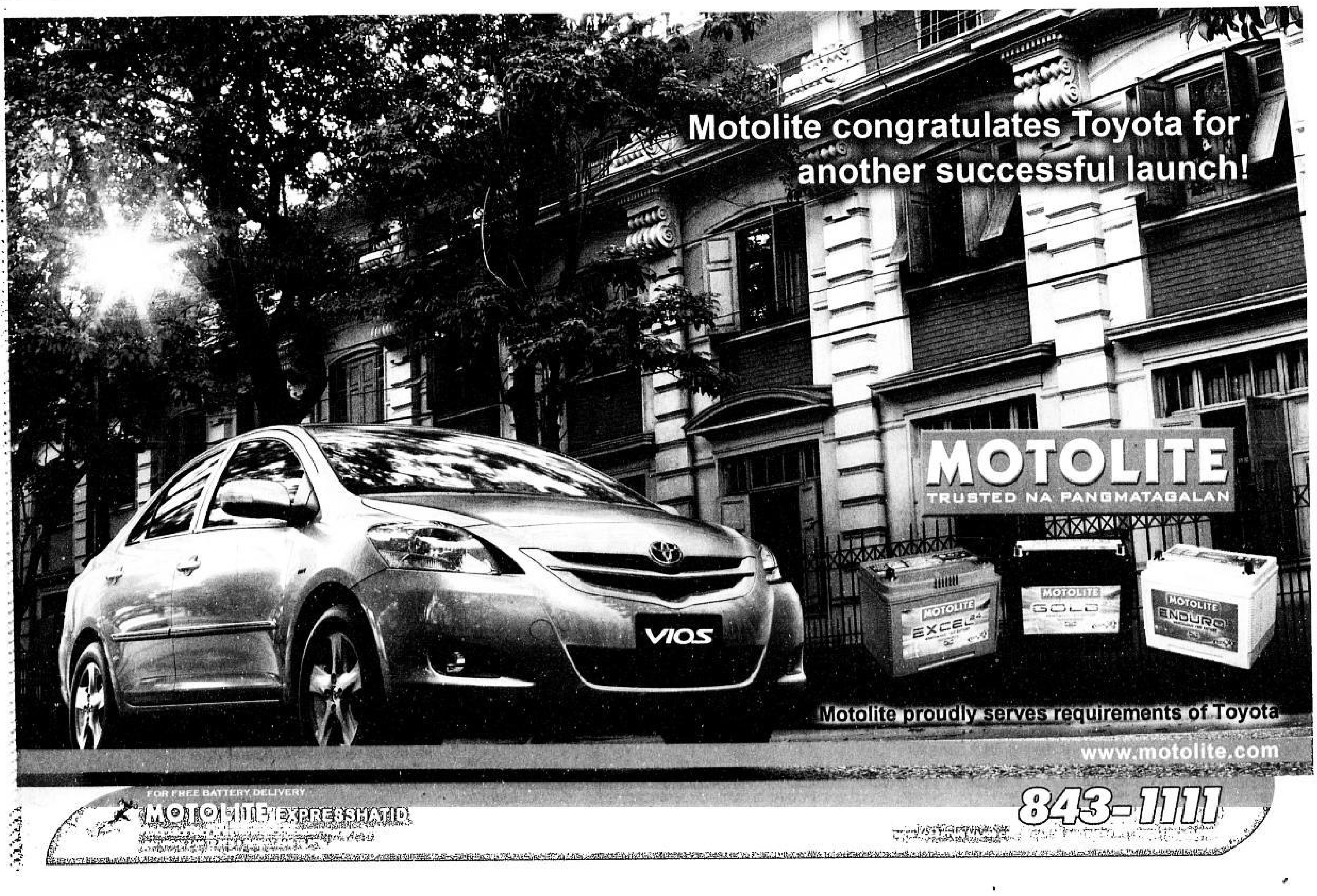
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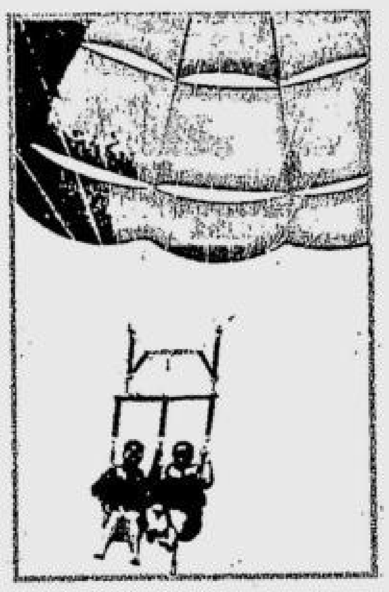
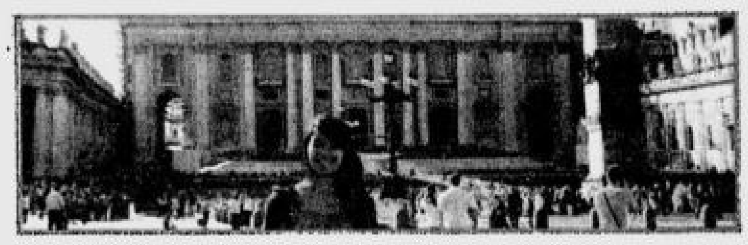
Dream *diaries*

It's 2bU!'s birthday month and we're celebrating by sharing with you stories of our own dreams that have come true. Finding love, being heard, seeing the world—all these things have turned into reality for us. But these stories are just a start. Because we wouldn't be here if it weren't for you, we want to do what we could to make your own dreams come true.

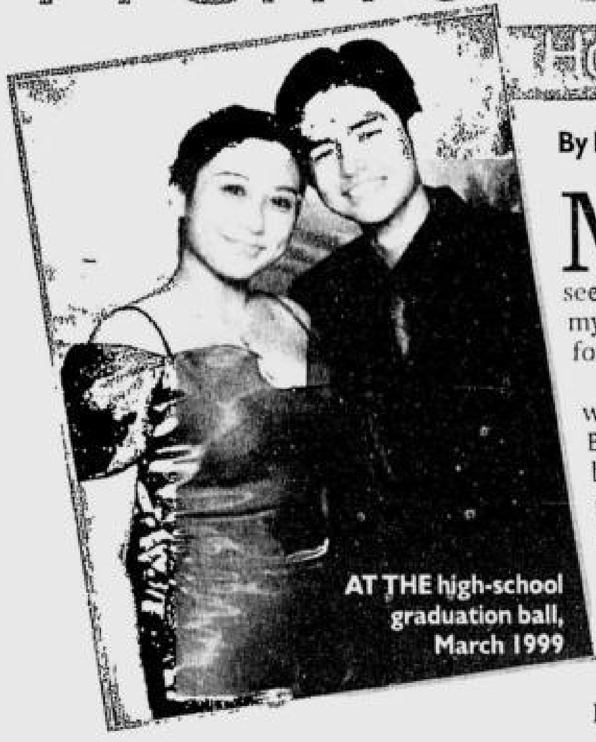




When you're done enjoying this issue, write to us about your own dream and 2bU! might just turn it into reality. E-mail us at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

From the classroom to the altar

How I married my grade-school sweetheart



AT THE high-school graduation ball, March 1999

By Katrina Yap-Sotto, *2bU! Correspondent*

MARRIAGE IS A SUBJECT MOST 25-year-olds would avoid. These days, tying the knot at 25 would seem too early. But not for me. I married my grade-school sweetheart two days before I turned 25.

Derek and I go way back to 1993, when we became classmates in fifth grade at Benedictine Abbey School (San Beda Alabang). He was 11, I, ten. I found him cute. And as I would later find out from his friends, he felt the same way about me. Our classmates teased us constantly. Puppy love, they called it. But every night I prayed our relationship would blossom into something more in the future.

I felt the heavens look down with favor upon me when Derek gave me his first love letter. Finally, a confirmation of our M.U. (mutual understanding)! Sounds cheesy, I know. But at fifth grade, that letter meant the world to me.

The letter was everything I had hoped a love letter would be. I felt so happy reading the letter. But my joy turned into sorrow when I reached the bottom. As a postscript, he wrote that our love was doomed to be short-lived. He had plans of entering the seminary in high school.

Heartbroken, I consoled myself by thinking, well, at least it was God and not some other girl who would come between us. Still, I prayed God would just let Derek be my boyfriend. Surely He could just give some other boy that calling.

FROM THE CLASSROOM/ C3

GOOFY wedding photos

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ENGAGEMENT ring monument

MOSQUE in Brunei

TERMINAL JETI MENUMBOK
FERRY to Brunei

Itchy feet

By Ruby De Vera
Contributor

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE HAD itchy feet. My mother would go crazy looking for me during mealtimes, finding me in some house several blocks away from ours. I'd reason, "I just wanted to see their place."

All throughout my student life, I was limited to seeing the world within a five-mile radius. Except when I lied through my teeth that I was working on a project, when actually I would be eating at friends' houses several towns away. I paid dearly for those lies.

When I started earning my own money, suddenly the possibilities exploded. The thought of being able to go anywhere I wanted, as long as I could afford it, was too much that for the first five years of my working life I was almost always broke.

It didn't matter where. If I had both time and money, my motto was "When?" I started small, like going to Baguio or Ilocos on a whim. Land travel was my specialty. I would either board a bus, or go on road trips. I drove straight for 12 hours at one time. It didn't matter that I didn't get enough sleep on weekends; I was making up for lost time.

After a couple of years, it was time to up the ante a little bit. My itchy feet took me to Palawan, Cebu, Bohol, Bicol, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Boracay, Mindoro, Sagada, Banawe, and some other short land trips in between.

My first travel out of the country brought me to Singapore. I lied again because I knew that if my mother learned that I'd be spending what little I have, I would never hear the end of it. By this time I already had travel buddies, friends who also had itchy feet like I did.

I have since gone to other countries in Asia that didn't require a visa. A little tip, though: Always check what they stamp on your passport. Never assume you're always allowed 21 days to a month in their country.

I may have gone to a lot of places, but the rest of the world is still waiting

HENNA moment in Bohol

AT RIPLEY'S in Hong Kong

Priceless experiences

When I travel, I don't think about the damage it will do to my bank account. The experiences I get from all my adventures can never have a monetary value.

I have been scared to death driving at 3 a.m. on an unknown stretch of road somewhere in Ilocos, the fuel gauge blinking "Empty" and we had no idea where to find a gas station.

I tolerated high fever during the Pahiyas Festival in Quezon, because I woke up very early to make the trip. The little inconvenience of being sick would not stop me from seeing the parade.

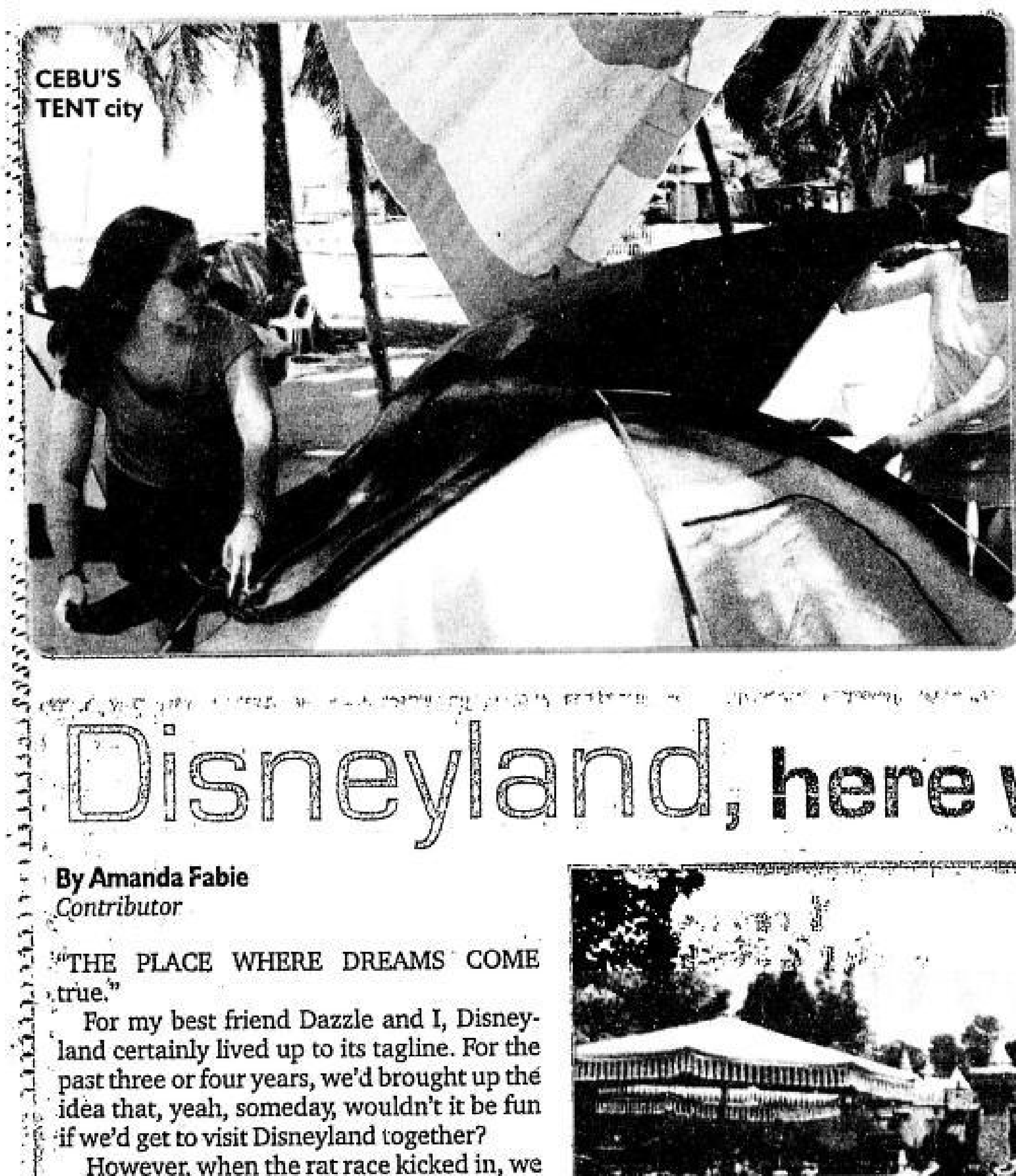
I almost drowned swimming in Subic. I experienced how pitch-black the night could be out at sea when our boat got stuck on seaweed while island-hopping in Bohol.

I rode a *habal habal* (motorcycle) with four other people in it in Davao. I fed the giraffes in Calauit, and then almost had a zebra kick me because I poked its baby. I got so drunk in Boracay I entered another hotel. I've had coffees with truck drivers in stopovers in remote towns.

I have boarded questionable ferries in Malaysia, lost my passport and money in Singapore (then claimed it at the Lost and Found), got lost in Hong Kong while dripping wet, watched special women do their special skills in Phat Phong, almost got ran over by trams in the Central District, and was reduced to a sniffling lump by immigration officers in Bandar Seri Begawan.

I may have gone to a lot of places, but the rest of the world is still waiting. My travel record is actually nothing compared to the real jetsetters. But hey, I'm not rich.

However, the proliferation of budget airlines and promo fares bring my friends and I endless joy and excitement. Now there is almost no excuse not to go places, and indeed we will. We are nowhere near done.

CEBU'S TENT city


CRESCENT Island in Bohol

Disneyland, here we come!

By Amanda Fabie
Contributor

"THE PLACE WHERE DREAMS COME true."

For my best friend Dazzle and I, Disneyland certainly lived up to its tagline. For the past three or four years, we'd brought up the idea that, yeah, someday, wouldn't it be fun if we'd get to visit Disneyland together?

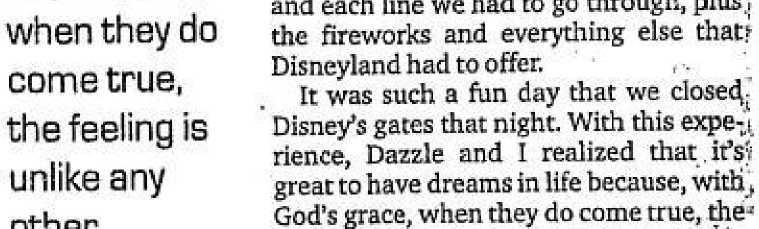
However, when the rat race kicked in, we were lucky to have a weekend free of anything work-related crossing our minds.

As years passed, the dream remained just that, a dream. Last July, though, an opportunity came for us. We were both in the US for work, just at different coasts. We thought, what the heck, this was the closest we'd get to really going for our dream. We just had to make it work.

Dazzle arranged a flight to Los Angeles from the East Coast, while I trekked south to Anaheim. With our park maps in tow, we spent 12 hours in Disneyland's main park and California Adventure. Together with two other friends and Ed, Dazzle's husband, we enjoyed each ride, and each line we had to go through, plus the fireworks and everything else that Disneyland had to offer.

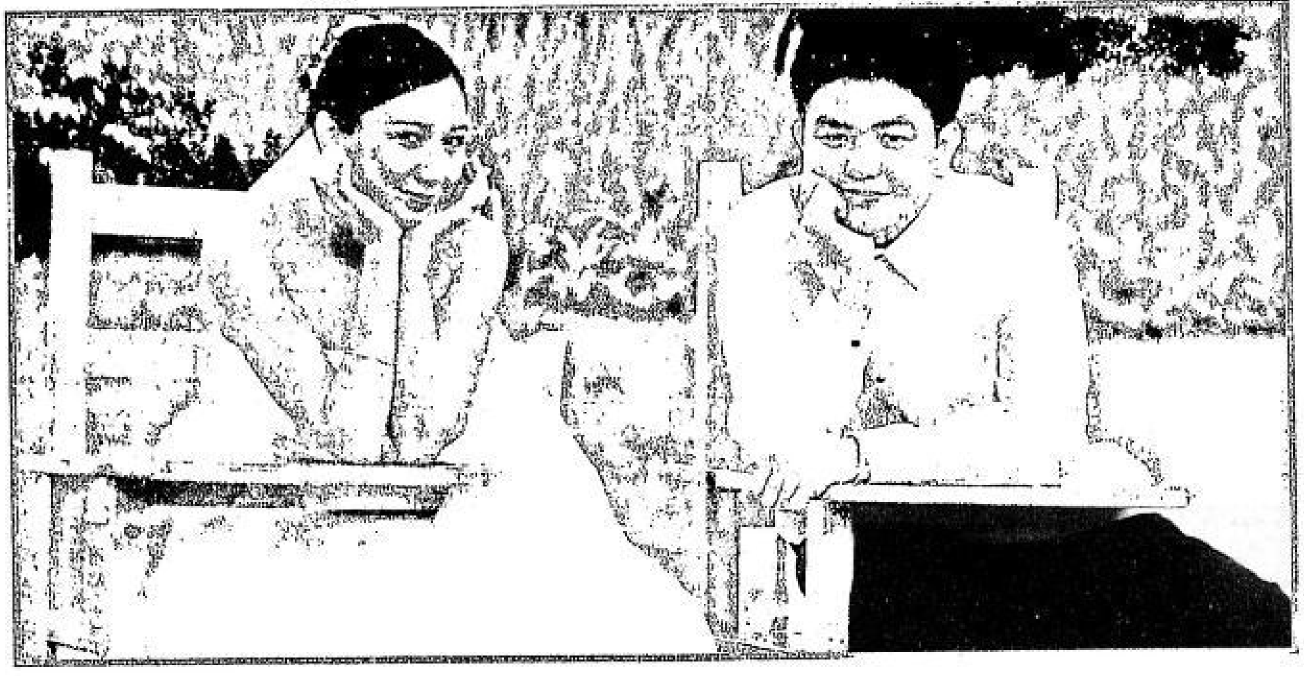
It was such a fun day that we closed Disney's gates that night. With this experience, Dazzle and I realized that it's great to have dreams in life because, with God's grace, when they do come true, the feeling is unlike any other.

BEST friends at the Magic Kingdom


IT'S a small world after all

It's great to have dreams in life, because when they do come true, the feeling is unlike any other

From the classroom to the altar



REENACTING grade school

From page C1

In sixth grade, my prayers were answered. The school year began with teachers asking that overused question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The teacher called on Derek. My heart leapt upon hearing his answer. "A businessman." Our class erupted into cheers. I blushed.

This was when we started passing each other notes, talking on the phone, and exchanging gifts such as toys from early childhood.

I was on my way to having a boyfriend!

Sadly, a misunderstanding led us to part ways. Jealousy got the better of my sweetheart. He disapproved of my close ties with other boys.

Waste of time

Going into high school, I found myself being courted by other guys. But I never really entertained them because I saw them as a waste of time. Time, I believed, be better spent on someone I deeply cared about.

Little did I know Derek still cared for me, too. He swallowed his pride, apologized for being *torpe*, and found ways to grab my attention—through notes in my locker or by carrying my books.

Come 1997, junior year, we were an official item.

Even as graduation rolled around the corner, Derek and I remained confident in our relationship. Of course it also helped we were entering the same university. We were perhaps the happiest couple during our graduation ball. Our peers honored us by naming us "Batch Couple."

Surviving a relationship through college was tougher than we had thought. We began to discover each other's personalities, quirks, priorities and beliefs. And we did not always see eye to eye. Many times we felt like giving up, but I guess one could say love always found a way because we constantly made that decision to continue loving each other.

Our relationship only got stronger since then. We became each other's best friend as we entered adulthood. We started sharing dreams, visions and goals. I knew I loved Derek, and I wanted to spend the rest of my life with him.

Wonderful blessing

Aug. 16, 2006. Derek popped the question, with a beautiful ring to boot. My wish—rather, our wish—was finally coming true!

Together, we planned our wedding. From the concept to the colors, the menu to the flowers, even the cake and music, every decision was made together. And though it was stressful, we enjoyed the planning process. It was the most fun project we've had ever, and it brought out the best in us.

The sun shone brightly on the afternoon of Sept. 8, 2007—another wonderful blessing as heavy rains had started pouring the night before and lasted until early morning (I knew because I was up the entire time). Despite the lack of sleep, I was incredibly happy and relaxed.

I made my way down the aisle with "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" from "Cinderella" being played by our string quartet. I had listened to this song as a child, and felt it was the perfect song for my fairy-tale wedding. A fairy tale because I was marrying my Prince Charming.

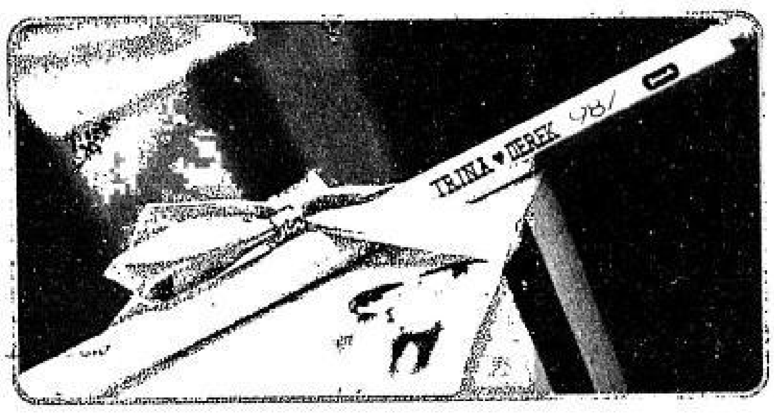
Our high-school rector celebrated the sacrament, with family and friends (mostly classmates from grade school and high school) as witnesses to our promises of forever.

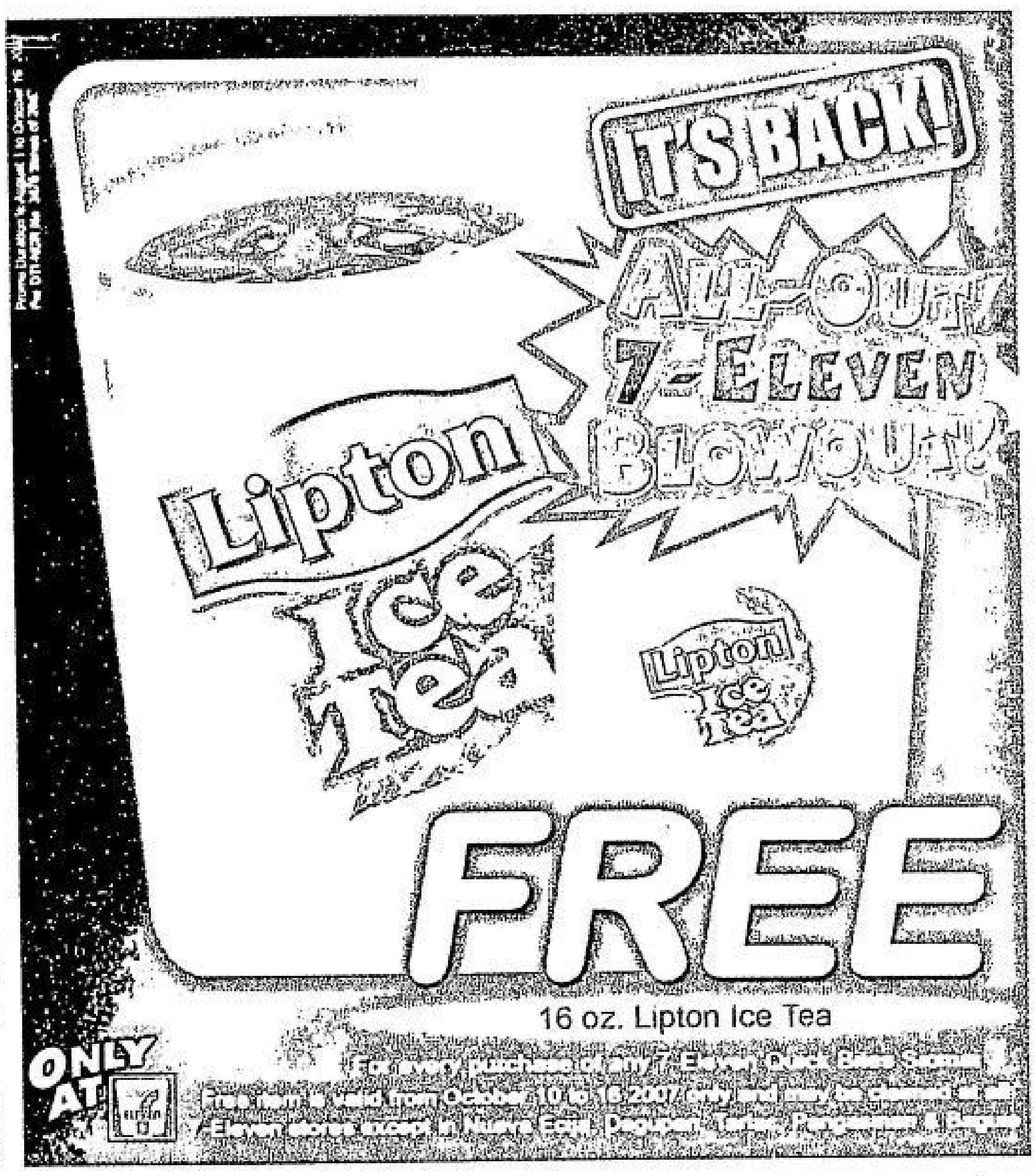
Derek and I realize how blessed we truly are not only to have found each other but also to have gotten it right the first time around.

And I am thankful because my dream has turned into reality, and he's sleeping right beside me. Time for me to put away my notebook and join my husband in dreaming some more.

Visit www.trinaandderek.weddingpath.com. E-mail the author at trina@pldtdsl.net.

SCHOOL supplies as wedding souvenirs

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Dream come true

By Bunny Anne A. Gapit
Contributor

I didn't even have to wait that long to receive the kind of love that girls, young and old alike, could only dream about

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD I DID IN MY life to deserve my boyfriend. I'm never the Godly type, but many times I've thought that He must really, really love me for Him to bless me with my boyfriend.

I didn't even have to wait that long to receive the kind of love that girls, young and old alike, could only dream about. I don't even feel inclined to describe his love, because all I know is that it's perfect. And although I don't know God too well, I can say that the love my boyfriend has for me may come close to His.

But the truth is, no matter how beautifully perfect he executes his love, when met with my strange and maladjusted ways, it becomes a disaster. For some reason, the dream that is HE becomes a nightmare when it's WE.

However, I always try to conquer my difficult and ugly self, strive hard to match his ways, and give him what I owe him, what he deserves. It's just that no matter what I'm capable of giving or showing, I always feel like it's measly compared to what he does, and that he will always feel shortchanged.

It terrifies me to think that I can't even compete with him and that I'd forever feel unworthy and beholden.

I don't know where he's learned what he knows. I don't know where he draws his strength from. I am afraid to know where it's all coming from. I don't ever want to know it, and measure it, and realize that just like a dream, it can perish in an instant when one wakes up.

In all sincerity, I could say that it really doesn't matter to me now how I'd been unloved before, by people and dreams that I wished had loved me back. I don't care about how I'd stupidly wasted once-in-a-lifetime opportunities in my many attempts to scale some kind of success, worldly or esoterical. It doesn't matter where other aspects of my life had gone all these years, just so I can sustain and protect the existence of the only real thing I have now.

All I need is just this dream-come-true in my life's only romance. People search for it their whole lives, while I really didn't have to wait that long to find it. He is what I need, and nothing else.

ME AND my boyfriend

AUTHOR at work

Morning-show monster

I was in awe at how fast-paced the job could be

By Cristina P. Agatep
2bU! Correspondent

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE PART of a TV production, specifically a public affairs show. Imagine my joy when I became an intern in "Unang Hirit."

I was in awe at how fast-paced the job could be. On my first day, I was told to be at the studio by 1 a.m. the following day. Suddenly all my fantasies of prestige and glamour associated with the job evaporated. I knew it was a morning show, but reporting to work at that hour?

I learned that since I was assigned to the live remote segment, I had to come earlier than the studio-assigned staff. No choice—I dragged my semi-asleep self to the studio the following morning.

With a semester left in college, I held on to my job as a remote researcher for the morning. My then team head, Chyndy Liberia, patiently showed me the ropes.

Eventually I became a remote producer. No, make that morning-show monster, because I morphed into one every time the show started. I would return to my normal state once the show ended.

Here I am now producing segments for the same show I joined four years earlier. Living my dream is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

Seeing our output on TV always gives me a sense of fulfillment, though working for the Philippines' No. 1 morning show is never easy. We should be ready for changes always, our body clocks ever flexible.

When you don't give your best, it creates more pressure because TV viewers can see the sloppy results. And like any other work, mine has its fair share of up and downs, but when you love something, it doesn't seem like work.

Author Paolo Coelho said that all the universe will conspire for you to achieve something you want. He's right. Becoming a morning-show monster was not my dream. But I am forever grateful for the opportunity.

Whenever I'm asked if I have any plans of moving elsewhere, I say that they have to drag me out of here, because I'm staying put.

See the morning-show monster at tenggers.blogspot.com

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Heart-y parties

By Czarina Ledesma
Contributor

AS A YOUNG CHILD I LOVED TAKING care of my younger cousins. This has carried on to this day. Thus, when we were approached by the Parenting Foundation in 2000, it was like manna from heaven.

The Parenting Foundation is a non-government organization that provides foster care for abandoned and surrendered children awaiting adoption. For this critical period, it's been proven that family care is superior to orphanages in every aspect.

So for the last seven years, we have opened our home to eleven children who have each spent anywhere between four months and two years with my family. Not only has it been a time filled with infinite joy for us, it has also helped me discover my true purpose in life.

I was trained as a hotelier, having taken up Hotel and Restaurant Institution Management at the College of Saint Benilde. After graduation, I lived in Amanpulo where I worked in the Guest Services department. Living on this remote and beautiful Palawan Island, surrounded by people delivering such first-rate services, I realized how I could merge my two passions in life—helping children and organizing events—into one dream job. My company, Fete, is a product of this vision.

Fete is the French word for festival. It is also the name of an events styling company that I started with one of my best friends, Ferdi Salvador. "Festival, feast, flair, fun"—these are all the words that can describe my company and the realization of my dream.

We are called Fete: Event Architects. Like the nodes of the bamboo, parties are the nodes or highlights in one's life. I believe these parties have to stand out not just in one's memory but in all the guests' memories as well. We are architects and not stylists, because we want to build on our concepts and designs that the market has never seen before, using non-conformity as our standard.

Through the efforts of Fete, not only do those who attend the gatherings we organize take something home with them, the foster children of the Parenting Foundation benefit as well. The "guardian angels" from Parenting Foundation are the driving force behind Fete, since the foundation receives all net proceeds as its major source of income.

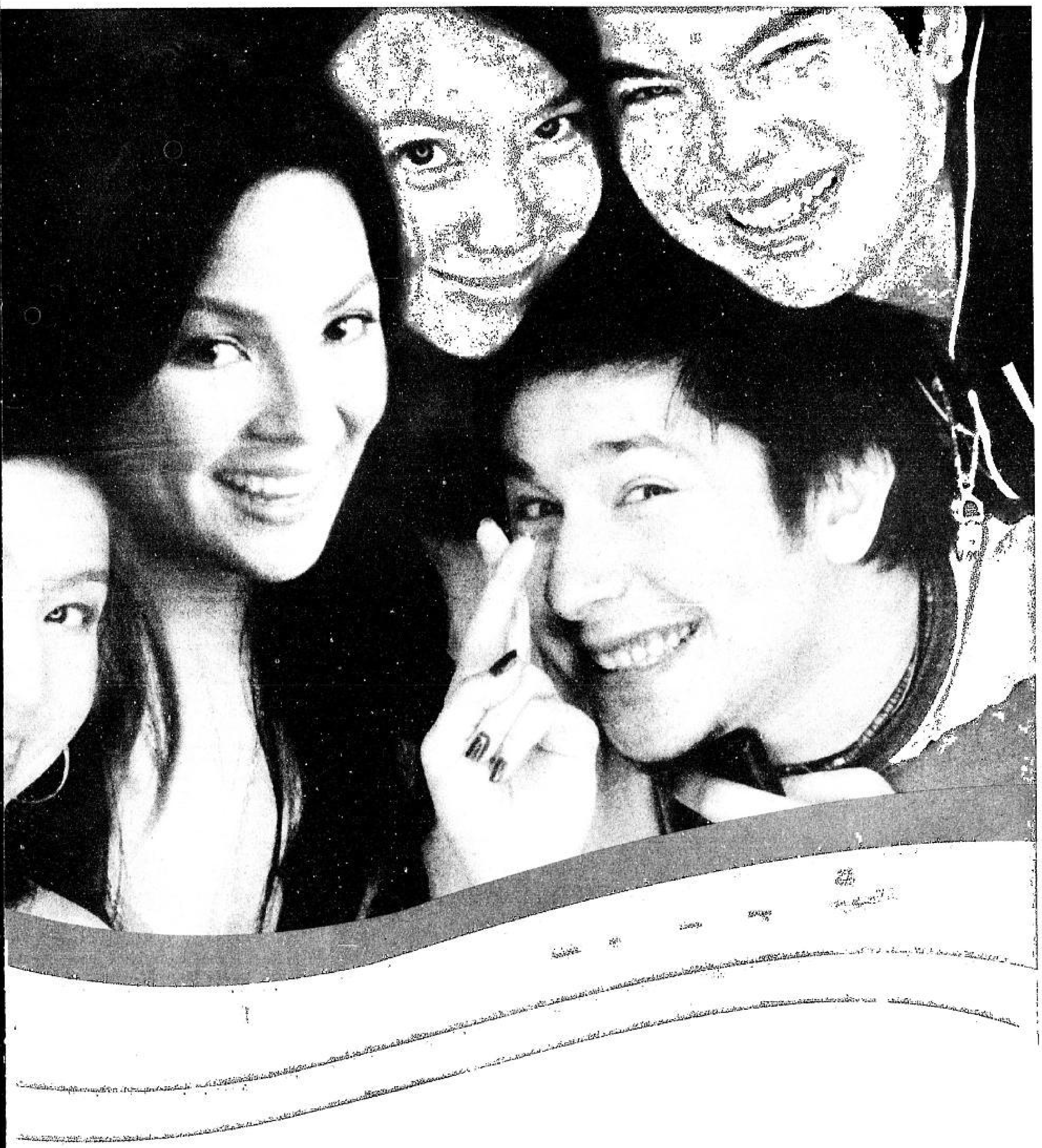
Fete has been able to arrange "affairs to remember" at several distinctive locations. For close friends and family, my parents have even allowed me to use my home at 32 McKinley Road in Forbes Park, free of charge, as long as Parenting Foundation can benefit from it. For them, it could only mean that another child is finding a home, and I am truly grateful to my family for supporting me in this way.

WITH MY friend and business partner, Ferdie Salvador

My ultimate goal is to put up a giant home where we can take care of many more kids. Thanks to Fete, we are making this a reality for one child at a time.

E-mail feteeventarchitects@yahoo.com

> I've merged my two passions in life—helping children and organizing events—into one dream job



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JULIA knit puff-sleeve dress (P699.75), floral dress (P549.75), Darlington stockings (P99.75), necklace (P219.75)

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A sleeveless purple Julia dress with pleated neckline teamed up with stockings, worn with pumps and accessorized with a striking necklace, is perfect for a night of fun after work.

Go smart casual during your family weekend gathering by slipping on a Julia knit puff-sleeve dress worn over a floral dress. Pair it with fashionable pumps and finish off with a trendy neckpiece. For a dinner date, try on a Julia bolero worn over a belted and printed tunic with matching black stockings and gold pumps.

Lastly, go shopping with your friends wearing the season's latest trends in Julia's cropped jacket matched with a green tunic and accessorized with a belt.

Check out Julia's casual, stylish and affordable line of trendy apparel and footwear, exclusively available at Robinsons Department Store (RDS). Visit www.rds.com.ph.

JULIA cropped jacket (P499.75), green tunic (P499.75), skinny jeans with gold stitching (P699.75), pumps (P599) and Donna belt (P199.75)

AUTHOR (first row, left) with the staff of Candy magazine

The best part about being a Candy girl is that you believe in yourself enough to know that anything is possible

Sweet, sweet life

By Marla Miniano
2bU! Correspondent

AS A TEENAGER, I WANTED TO BE A lot of things—a teacher (like my mom), a lawyer (because I thought wearing power suits and killer heels would be cool), a shrink (I was intrigued; think of all the juicy secrets patients could spill!), a model (I gave up on that soon enough because I was stuck at 5 feet), and a botanist (I have no idea where that came from).

But what I really, really wanted was to be a writer for my favorite magazine.

I read Candy from the very beginning, since its launching year in 1999. I looked up to the cover girls, hunted down the items in the fashion pages, read the feature articles over and over again, and daydreamed about my favorite Candy cuties (can't spill who!).

More than anything else, I admired the team behind the magazine. I was a true-blue Candy fan girl.

In the summer of 2004, I was surfing the Net when I saw a call for entries to the new batch of the Council of Cool, a group of young Candy writers. I was in my junior year in college, and had a relatively manageable schedule, so I sat down and started writing my application essay.

I struggled with it for days. Was it too corny? Too cheesy? Too ass-kissy? I considered not sending it in and just waiting for the next batch the following year. But I was already 19 then, and the age limit was 20. The following year would be too late.

It was a classic Now or Never scenario. Swallowing my doubts, I printed out my essay and delivered it personally to Candy headquarters.

A few months later, on a lazy Saturday morning, I got a call from then lifestyle editor Mimi Tiu. "We read your essay and we liked it," she told me, snapping me out of my post-Friday-night-*gimik* stupor. She asked me to e-mail her a short movie review for my final task, and a couple of days later, confirmed that I had indeed gotten into the council.

I was thrilled. But looking back, my excitement did not even begin to compensate for how Candy changed my life.

In a span of less than two years, I moved from Council of Cool member to intern to contributing writer, until I finally landed the editorial-assistant position after graduation, officially becoming part of the Candy team—and fulfilling my high-school dream.

More than teaching teens what clothes to wear and makeup to buy, telling them how to deal with crushes and boyfriends, and updating them on the latest in music, movies, and celebrities, Candy is every girl's best friend. It teaches her to value her relationships with her family and friends. It makes her realize that teenage drama and angst are just part of the growing-up process. It helps her become more creative, more confident, more comfortable in her own skin.

So I did get my high-school dream. And along with it came opportunities for this shy *probinsyana* to step out of her shell, chances to work with the most talented people in the industry, and, of course, with eight lovely ladies I can proudly call my friends: Mia, Mimi, Angel, Jennie, Margaux, Macy, Roch and Steph.

The Candy team is a happy, crazy, wonderful family, and I am extremely blessed to be a part of it.

Right now, I still want to be a lot of things. There are new options to explore, new loves to chase and, yes, new dreams to aim for. But the best part about being a Candy girl is that you believe in yourself enough to know that anything is possible.

My life—as well as the lives of the hundreds of teen girls I am hopefully touching in my own way—gets a little bit sweeter every day.

Marla Miniano is the assistant lifestyle editor for Candy Magazine. E-mail her at marla@candymag.com.

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My Lego life

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
2bU! Contributor

BACK IN FIRST GRADE, I WAS INTO playing with Lego sets. Assembling houses and vehicles, at least those mini-versions, appealed to me, partly because the interlocking parts allowed me the freedom to start over and change how they looked. I also wanted to create my own town.

Adults around me, including a visiting teacher (who went to our house to sell an encyclopedia set) assumed, and perhaps hoped, I'd be an architect one day. And for some time, that's what I wanted to be because it looked as if I could actually be good at that.

But in a hospital bed over a year later, after the doctors took out my appendix, all I could think of were colorful comic-book covers, displayed side by side in some Greenhills shop I discovered days earlier. Seeing that stunning wall felt like being bombarded with an army of superheroes I knew and wanted to know over and over.

After my hospital stay, I'd draw countless fight scenes between the champions of good and evil at the back pages of my notebooks, and I'd nag my Mom to buy me more of those adventure titles unceasingly.

A few months back, I discovered an old school journal, where I listed a number of contests I had joined and won in. Yes, after finishing 16 years of schooling, I forgot about how I was the overachieving nerd from time to time. I won in a bunch of slogan-making and poster-making tilts, so I knew even then that words and imagery could be tools at my disposal. I just practiced because I wanted to win more contests back then. I also wanted to make and tell my own epic stories, starring my own superheroes, one day. I was the quiet kid with the sketch pad and pencils.

But by my third year in high school, I wanted to be a radio deejay. I was discovering music, and loved playing vinyl records on our old turntable. It was a time when I was also getting confident with my voice, so I imagined I could probably do that as a job eventually.

And like some kids in their teens, I wanted to be part of some shared experience. I didn't know how to play instruments, so that felt close enough. Still, I knew that drawing, designing and ruling the lives of characters in my head was what I wanted to do someday. While I ditched the idea of pursuing a career in introducing, choosing and seamlessly playing songs, I became a more serious music lover.

Experience and foresight

When you're young, you feel like you can do anything and everything. I definitely felt that way; I still do, but now, that thought is tempered with knowledge, experience and some foresight.

Growing up teaches you your strengths, especially when you acknowledge and understand your limitations. The thing is, even when you knew and believed that you'd pursue a certain path early on, plans change and self-discoveries happen.

Your job options, love life, and ambitions may merge and shift at certain pivotal points in your life. Your new dreams get lumped with the older ones, and they don't become a reality overnight.

The world doesn't end when you fail. Rejection letters, broken hearts, unfulfilled wishes don't mean you won't ever be good at it, or won't get what you want. I certainly had my share of disappointments, so occasionally I became my own Dr. Phil because I had to survive and get past them.

I used to envy people, those lucky enough to enjoy lucrative careers, and also the free-spirited and worry-free ones. But eventually, I realized my own unique gifts, and I learned how to appreciate them. In the past few years, I've undergone phases and transformations, but I'm still me at my core. And that's always important.

We're all here sharing space and converging, and we all have our little defeats and victories. We're all fighting fate, and making ourselves comfortable in our precious little bubbles. But as individuals, we choose our own battles, we discover what we really want to do and say.

There comes a point when you look back at your life and ask yourself, "What have I accomplished so far and am I happy?"

I've had years of exposure to pop culture, and that's inspired me to create and appreciate. Unexpected opportunities pop up, but they, along with personal upheavals, can be turned into something visual or tangible, something other people can relate to. I happily get derailed from some goals sometimes. But I get to relish all these things, especially when I step back and look at these experiences from a distance.

Without pretensions

I live with words and imagery. My day job is all about perception. I didn't expect to be a freelance copywriter, or a reviewer and reporter, for that matter. I devote as much as I can to these jobs, regardless. Almost three years ago, I also released my self-published comic book, which isn't about superheroes. It's strange but wonderful to get letters from readers that connect with and appreciate my work on levels I never expected.

I can also say I'm happy that I'm living my life as me, without pretensions. Like anyone, I occasionally feel humbled, grounded and unsure where my path will take me next. But I keep doing what I do, of course.

As a writer-artist, I think in terms of words and pictures (so pardon me if I stare blankly at you, sometimes). But even when I process all these things that I need and want to do, my life is an unending comic-book serial. It's one whose outcome I can't exactly predict, but the journey, these chapters of my life, are just as important as the destination.

Hmm. Come to think of it, I can compare my life to playing with Lego bricks, too.

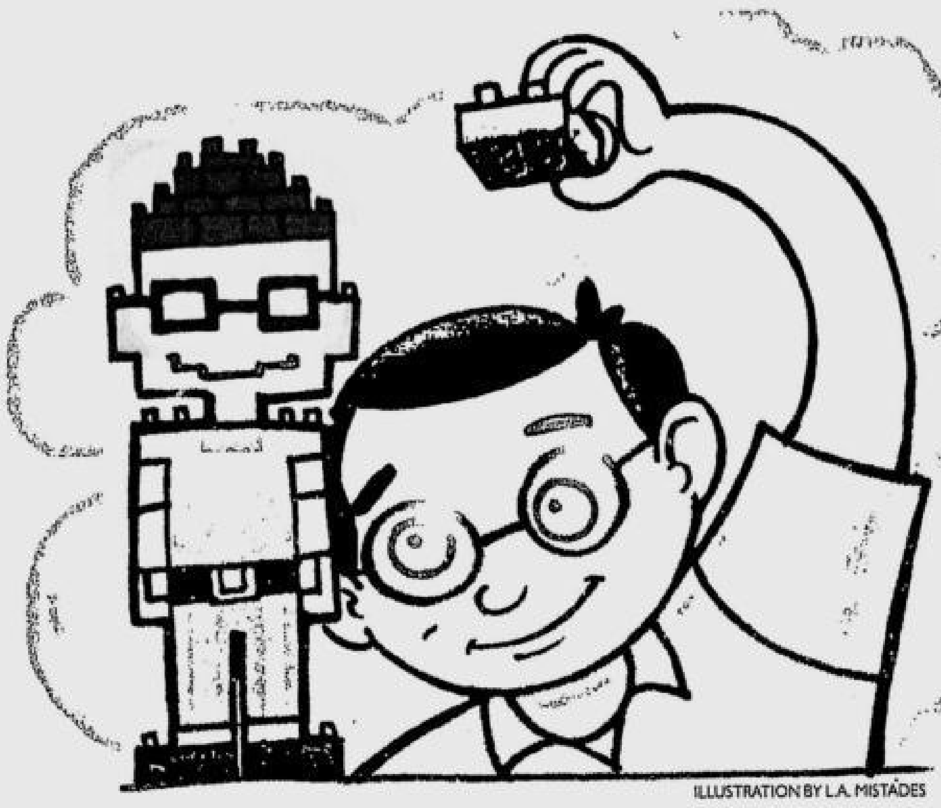

ILLUSTRATION BY L.A. MISTADES

I live with words and imagery—an unending comic-book serial whose outcome I can't exactly predict

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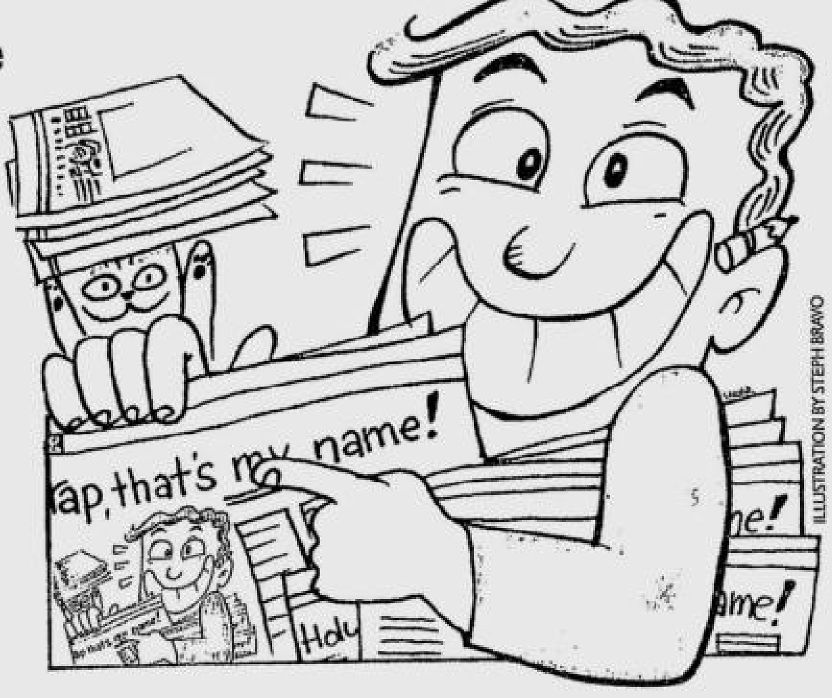
Holy crap, that's my name!

While seeing your byline in print can be an ego trip, I see it simply as a form of expression that gets even more fulfilling when kindred souls let you know that they can relate to your published thoughts and feelings


ap, that's my name!
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ame!
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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

SEEING ONE'S NAME IN PRINT IS SUCH A surreal experience. It makes you feel fulfilled, alive, validated and, of course, proud, too, all at the same time.

Even as a kid, I already had a desire to see my name in print—not so much as the topic of a news article, but as the writer behind it. I already knew I wanted to be someone who expressed himself through the written word and elicited reaction from his readers.

I remember how, at age 10, I'd make these makeshift newspaper issues by folding pieces of short bond paper crosswise, typing stories or made-up newsbits on them, prettifying them with magazine cutouts or pictures of my kin or even my own doodles, and then stapling the whole stack.

More than the actual "newspaper," what made me smile the most was seeing my full name—including my middle initial!—typewritten on every page as the writer, photographer, illustrator, editor in chief and publisher of my own daily.

My name never looked so good.

There was no doubt then that the association I wanted to join during high school was the school organ. While our adviser assigned me to be sports editor, I took the post and tried to be the best sports editor I could be even if I wasn't the least bit interested in sports. I must have done a pretty good job, because I eventually got the editor in chief position during my senior year.

The whole stint fulfilled me so much that I wanted more of it. I knew it was what I wanted to do after school.

Hard decision

During freshman year in college, I joined the school paper as a junior writer with my then best friend. However, due to personal and professional conflicts between us which turned really ugly, I had to leave my post and end our friendship.

Giving up writing for the school paper was one of the hardest decisions I ever made. While it meant sacrificing what I'd always loved to do and making my resumé less appealing, I followed my instincts and just left. At the time, I couldn't handle the politics, backstabbing and rampant theft of ideas that was happening.

But the writing gods must have been looking after me because less than a month after quitting the school paper, I came across an ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Its youth section was looking for a new batch of correspondents. I made sure I gave it a go.

I got accepted. And that's why, for about six years now, I've been seeing my name printed on the country's best newspaper on an almost weekly basis.

My newspaper stint has opened many other doors for me. After a brief stint with a men's magazine, I moved on to a celebrity rag, which I eventually became the editor in chief of.

A line from one of my articles for the paper even got included in a book of gay quotes. Unfortunately, I used a pseudonym for the feature, so my real name wasn't the one that got credited. That's the last time I'll ever use an alias.

While seeing your name in print can be an ego trip, I see it simply as a form of expression (okay, therapy, too) that gets even more fulfilling when kindred souls let you know they can relate to your published thoughts and feelings.

Getting published is a dream come true for any writer. I am very grateful to the writing gods for having granted my wish at an early age—and for being read, too, of course. After all, the only time one is a real writer is when he is read.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com

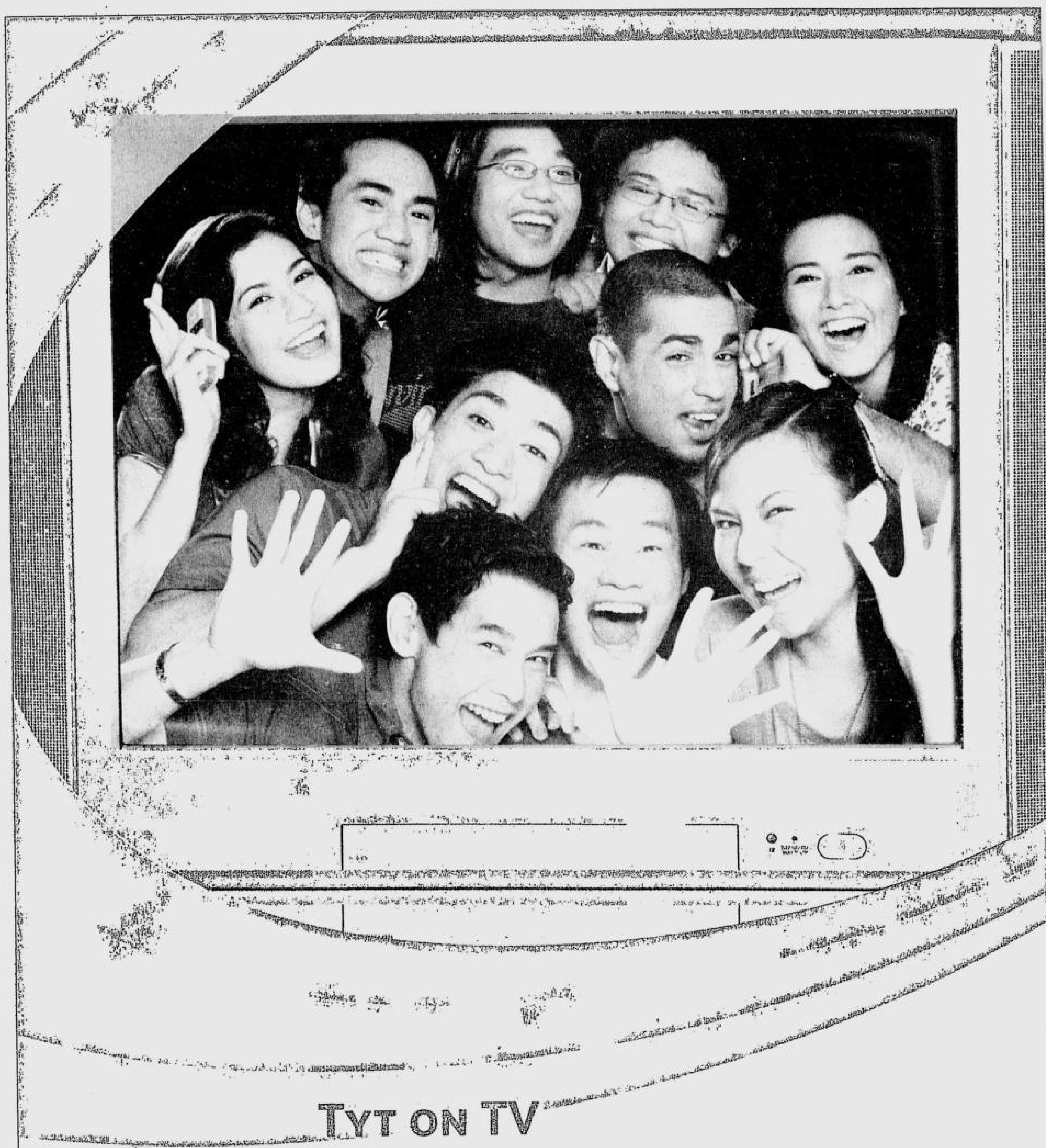
Gift-wrapping workshop Oct. 19-28

SINAG ARTS FOUNDATION WILL hold a special gift-wrap and craft design workshop by Etsuko Munueshige of the Japanese Wrapping Association.

Munueshige designs accessories, cloth goods, show windows, flower arrangements and Christmas displays in Tokyo.

The workshop will focus on the Japanese art of gift-wrapping, or *origata*.

The workshop fee will cover the Japanese facilitator and interpreter, and sample materials. Call 5313491 or 5319524; e-mail adminsinag-arts.org; or visit www.sinag-arts.org.



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Seeing life in pink

A candy-coated childhood dream to see Europe comes true

THE EIFFEL Tower by night

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

BLAME IT ON HOLLYWOOD. Because of Audrey Hepburn films such as "Roman Holiday," "Funny Face" and "Sabrina," I grew up thinking that Europe was a romantic wonderland of sorts, where fairy tales unfolded by the River Seine.

Years later, I realized that famous landmarks weren't the fairy-tale backdrops that they were in the movies (on the silver screen, the glamorous leads never had to deal with frightening hordes of beer-burping tourists). But still, the romanticized image of Europe remained firmly stamped on my mind.

So when I attended a journalism workshop in Germany, I decided to travel to several nearby countries after the seminar in order to fulfill a candy-coated childhood dream. In theory, it looked easy: all I had to do was grab my suitcase and hopscotch around Europe to take in the sights.

Of course, the execution was an entirely different story, because as a solo traveler on a budget, I couldn't just jet off to luxury hotels.

Obscene graffiti

The trips took quite a lot of creative planning in order to maximize my limited time and money. For instance, a trip to Paris involved a knee-cramping journey on a bus where the driver unceremoniously dumped me in the middle of a seedy neighborhood. There were no famous landmarks in sight, only fat gray pigeons pecking at stale baguettes tossed out on the sidewalks.

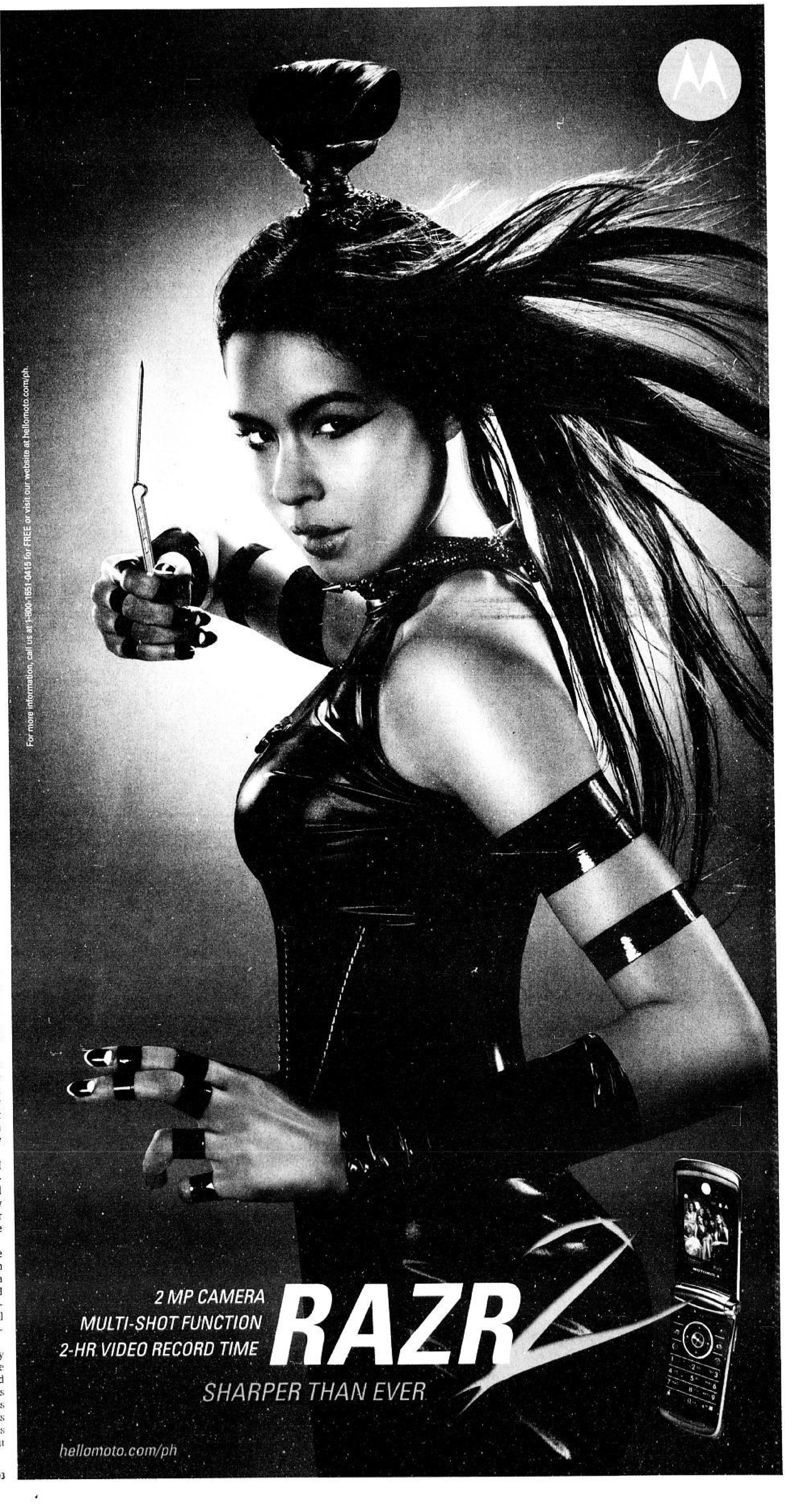
Even the Eiffel Tower, once the tallest structure in the world, was nowhere to be seen. This, despite the story that French writer Guy de Maupassant ate lunch every day at the tower's ground floor restaurant because he claimed it was the only place in Paris where he couldn't see the supposedly offensive thing.

Still, I tried to look on the bright side: I smiled at the bored-looking baker who rested his feet on the counter as he swatted away the bees clustering on his strawberry tarts, and the toothless newspaper vendor surrounded by cats and a cloud of cigarette smoke.

Finally, after coming to terms with the fact that I was in the middle of a Parisian ghetto, I took the metro train to escape to a more recognizable part of the city. When I finally emerged from the subway, the gargoyle-crowned Notre Dame cathedral stood just meters away in its gothic splendor.

I spent most of my weekend in the city walking through the roads in search of the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Bastille and Opera House, as well as noted restaurants and specialty shops. While I wore the soles of my shoes to the ground, other tourists sunned themselves on double-decker buses while English-speaking guides pointed out popular landmarks.

SEEING/ D3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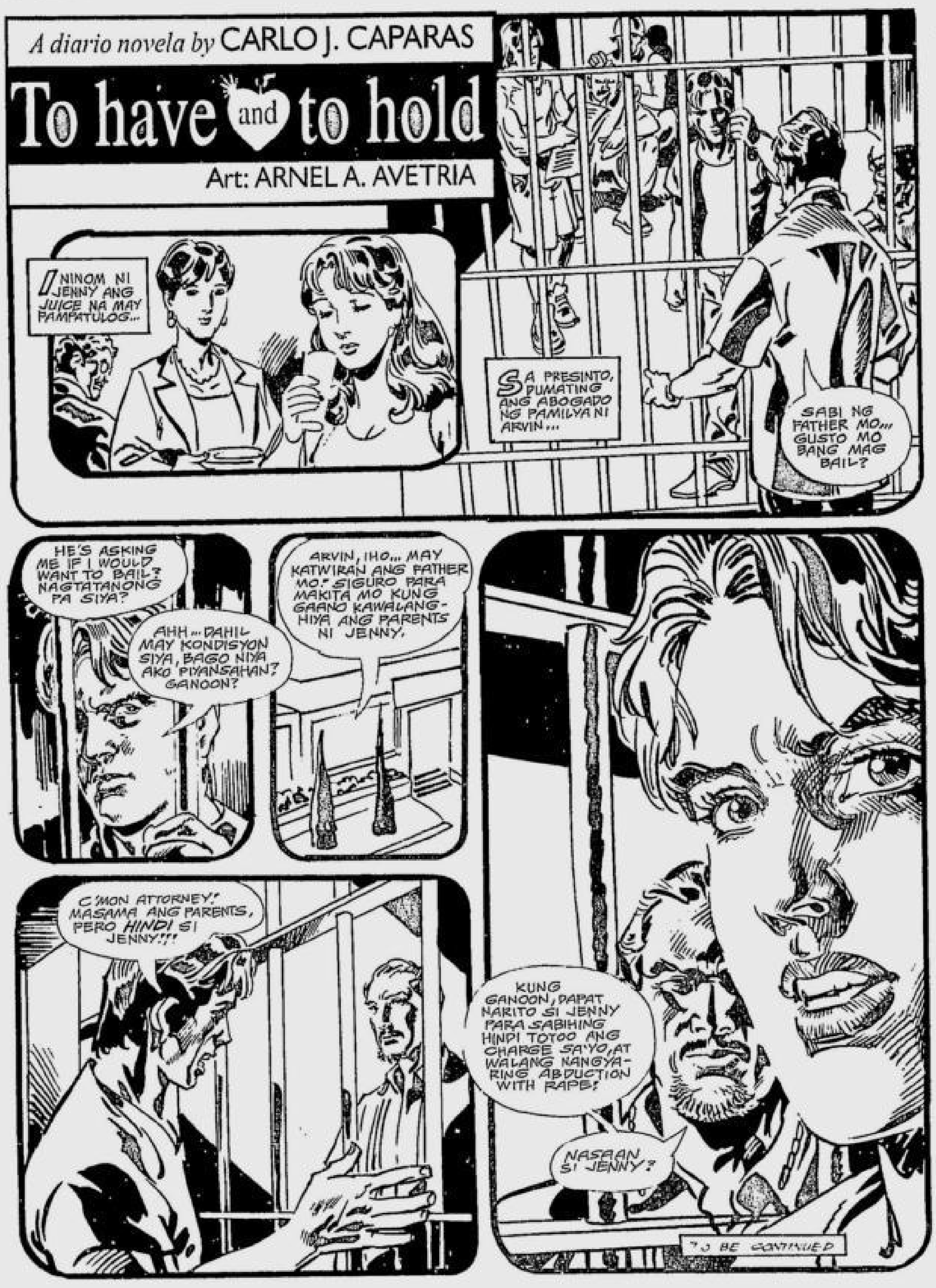
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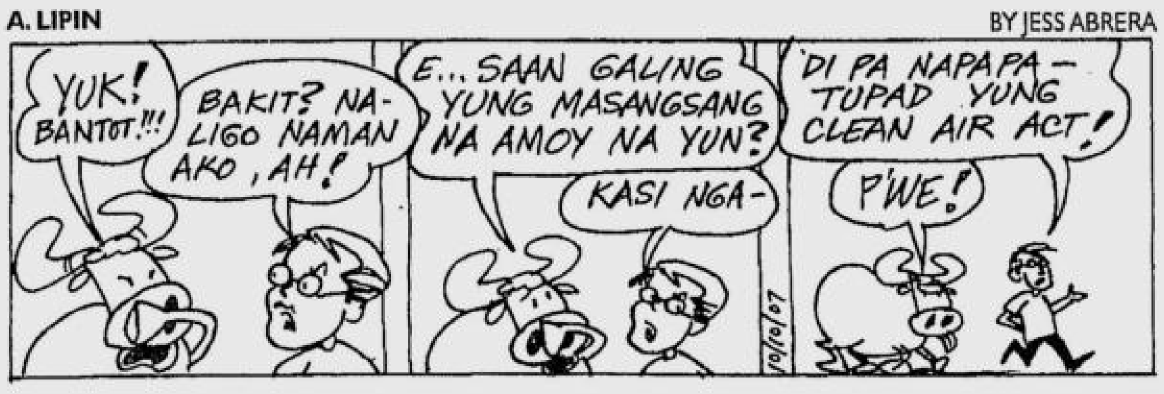
SA PRESINTO, PUMATING ANG ABOGADO NG PAMILYA NI ARVIN...
SABI NG FATHER MO... GUSTO MO BANG MAG BAIL?
HE'S ASKING ME IF I WOULD WANT TO BAIL? NAGTATANONG PA SIYA?
AHH... DAHIL MAY KONDISYON SIYA, BAGO NIYA AKO PIYANSAHAN? GANOON?
ARVIN, IHO... MAY KATWIRAN ANG FATHER MO. SIGURO PARA MAKITA MO KUNG GAANO KAWALANG-HIYA ANG PARENTS NI JENNY.
C'MON ATTORNEY! MASAMA ANG PARENTS, PERO HINDI SI JENNY!!!
KUNG GANOON, DAPAT NARITO SI JENNY PARA SABIHING HINDI TOTOO ANG CHARGE SA'YO, AT WALANG NANGYARING ABDUCTION WITH RAPE!
NASAAN SI JENNY?
TO BE CONTINUED

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA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BAKIT? NALIGO NAMAN AKO, AH!
E... SAAN GALING YUNG MASANGSANG NA AMOY NA YUN?
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'DI PA NAPAPATUPAD YUNG CLEAN AIR ACT!
P'WE!
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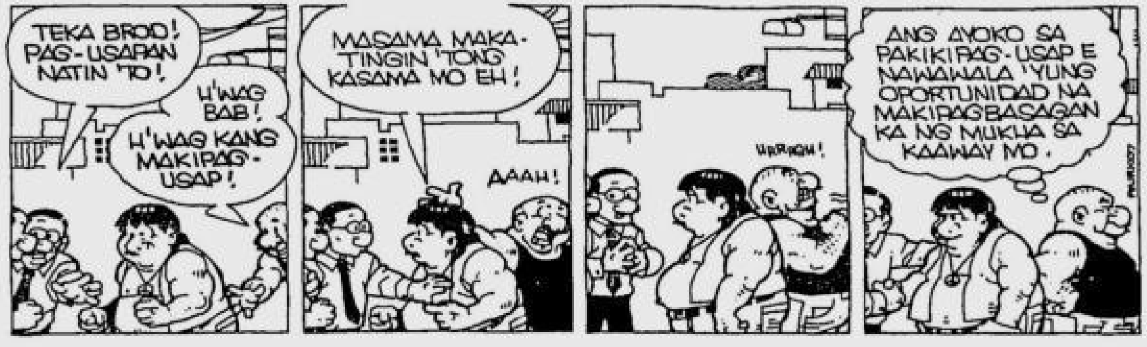
TEKA BROD! PAG-USAPAN NATIN 'TO!
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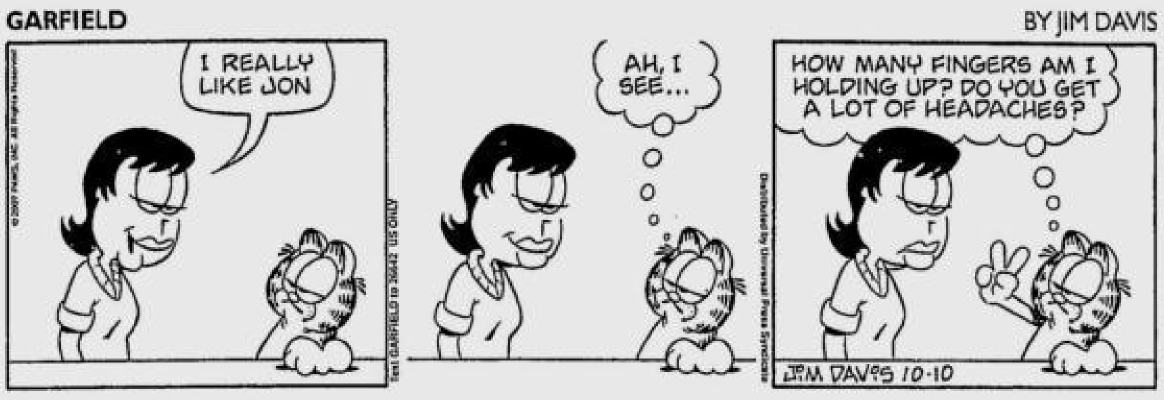
UNNGH!
ANG AYOKO SA PAKIKIPAG-USAP E NAWAWALA 'YUNG OPORTUNIDAD NA MAKIPAGBASAGAN KA NG MUKHA SA KAAWAY MO.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS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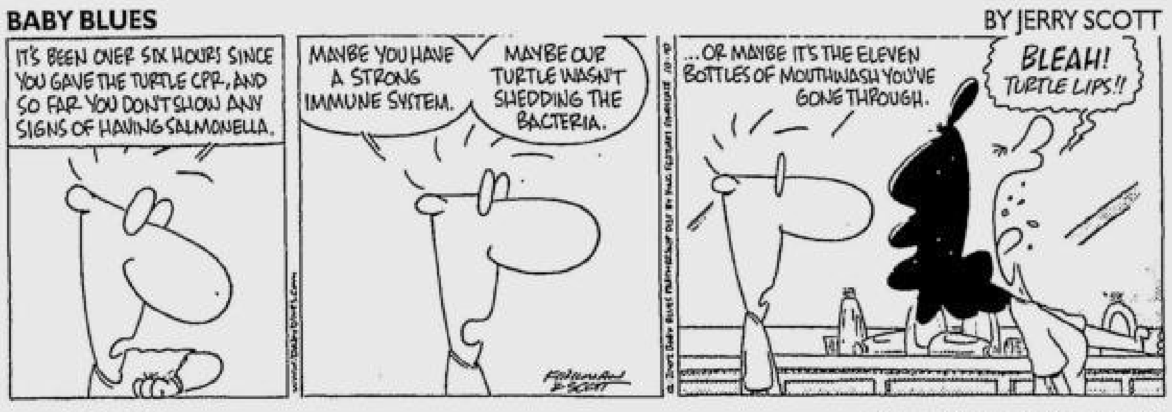
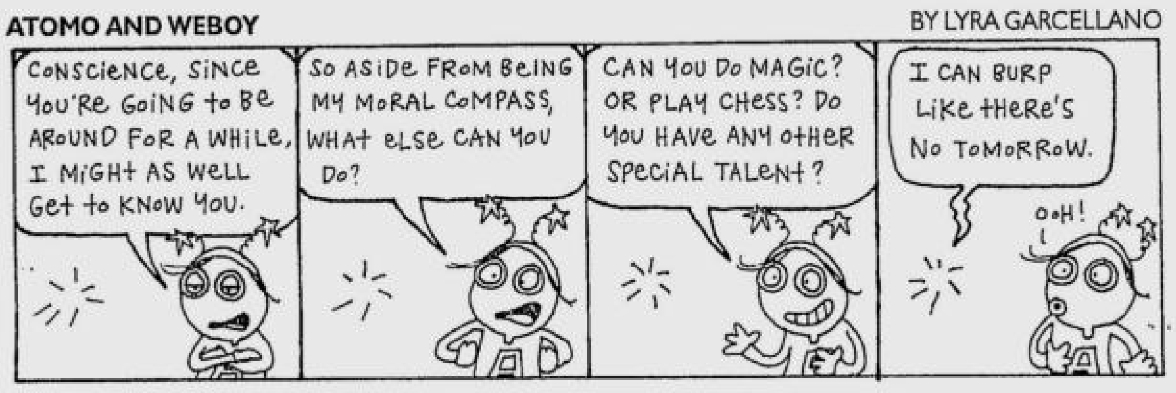
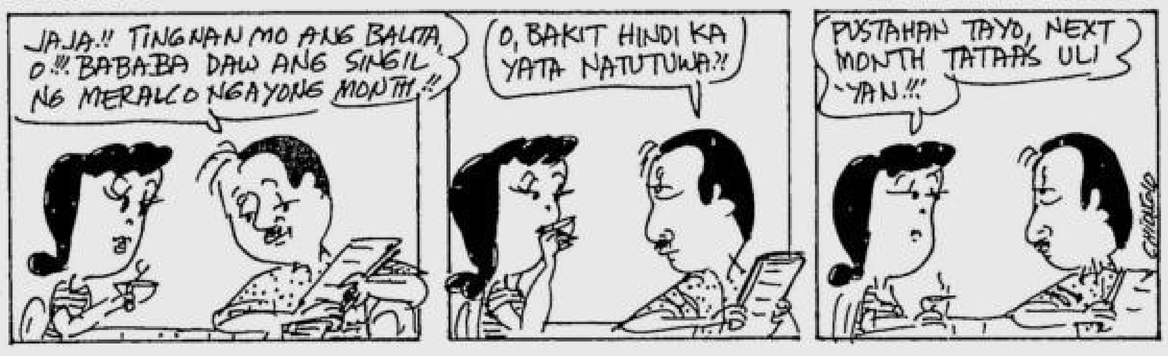
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


IT'S BEEN OVER SIX HOURS SINCE YOU GAVE THE TURTLE CPR, AND SO FAR YOU DON'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF HAVING SALMONELLA.
MAYBE YOU HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM.
MAYBE OUR TURTLE WASN'T SHEDDING THE BACTERIA.
...OR MAYBE IT'S THE ELEVEN BOTTLES OF MOUTHWASH YOU'VE GONE THROUGH.
BLEAH! TURTLE LIPS!!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

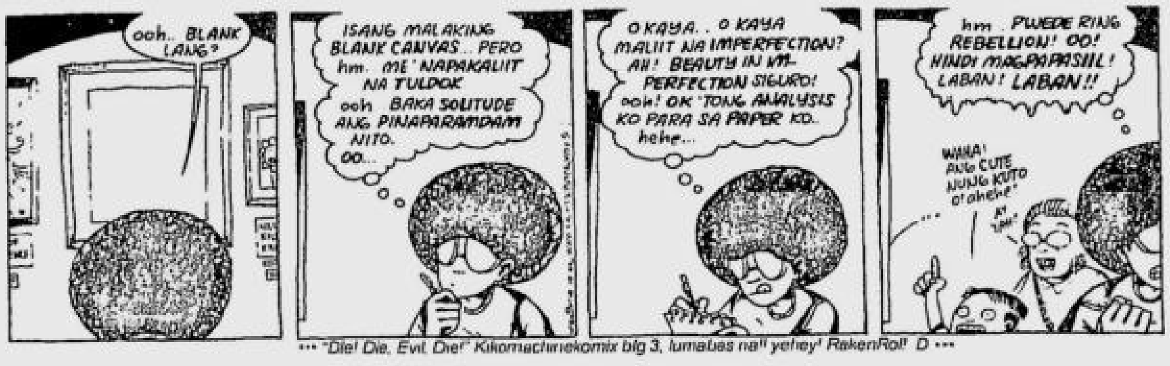
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CONSCIENCE, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A WHILE, I MIGHT AS WELL GET TO KNOW YOU.
SO ASIDE FROM BEING MY MORAL COMPASS, WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?
CAN YOU DO MAGIC? OR PLAY CHESS? DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SPECIAL TALENT?
I CAN BURP LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.
OOH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

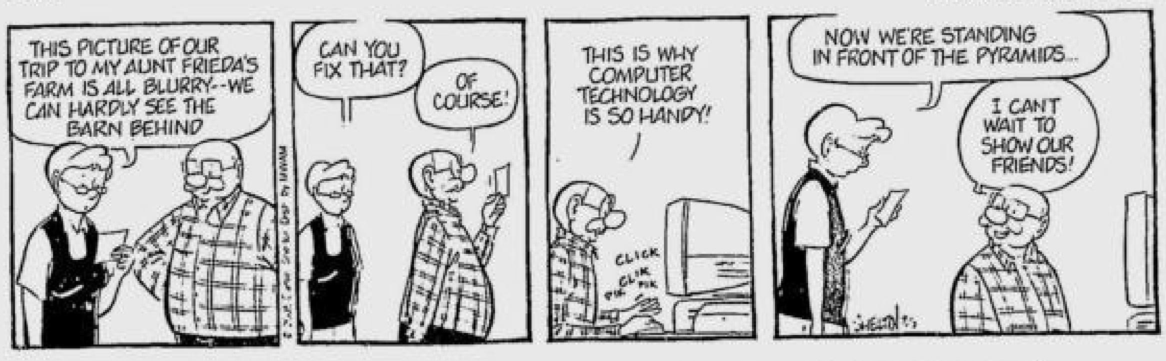

JAJA!! TINGNAN MO ANG BALITA, O!!! BABABA DAW ANG SINGIL NG MERALCO NGAYONG MONTH!!
O, BAKIT HINDI KA YATA NATUTUWA?!
PUSTAHAN TAYO, NEXT MONTH TATAAS ULI 'YAN!!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ooh.. BLANK LANG?
ISANG MALAKING BLANK CANVAS.. PERO hm. ME' NAPAKALIIT NA TULDOK
ooh BAKA SOLITUDE ANG PINAPARAMDAM NITO. oo...
O KAYA.. O KAYA MALIIT NA IMPERFECTION? AH! BEAUTY IN IMPERFECTION SIGURO! ooh! OK 'TONG ANALYSIS KO PARA SA PAPER KO.. hehe...
hm.. PWEDE RING REBELLION! OO! HINDI MAGPAPASIIL! LABAN! LABAN!!
WAHA! ANG CUTE NUNG KUTO O! ahehe!

••• "Die! Die, Evil, Die!" Kikomachinekomix blg 3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRol! D •••

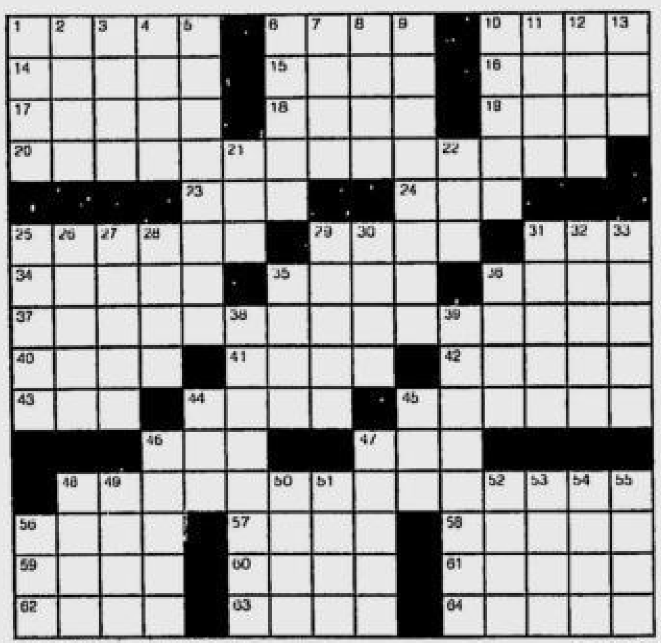
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS PICTURE OF OUR TRIP TO MY AUNT FRIEDA'S FARM IS ALL BLURRY--WE CAN HARDLY SEE THE BARN BEHIND
CAN YOU FIX THAT?
OF COURSE!
THIS IS WHY COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IS SO HANDY!
CLICK CLIK PIK PIK
NOW WE'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE PYRAMIDS...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW OUR FRIENDS!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hypnotist's directive
6 Wise guy
10 Musher's ride
14 Indian drums
15 In a short time
16 Rubik's toy
17 Studio sign
18 Beaks
19 UAR word
20 Two stars of talk
23 Susan of "L.A. Law"
24 Loser to DDE
25 Falseness
29 Epidermal opening
31 Opening
34 Large ape, briefly
35 "Rule Britannia" composer
36 Perry's creator
37 Two stars of newspapers
40 Ballpark figs.
41 Contends
42 "Beau __"
43 __ Moines, IA
44 Slob's creation
45 Major arteries
46 Letters on cameras
47 Curator's forte
48 Two stars of films
56 Strong wind
57 Author Bagnold
58 City in Tuscany
59 Robert of "The Sopranos"
60 Diminutive ending
61 Exams
62 Ranked competitor
63 Prognosticator
64 Hide away

DOWN
1 Sm. runway aircraft
2 Daily Planet reporter
3 Abba of Israel
4 Fiorucci of fashion
5 Ideal model
6 Pitcher Koufax
7 Once more
8 Mongolian desert
9 Trapper
10 Operation reminders
11 Angler's decoy
12 Online auction site
13 Coming-out gal
21 Bottom line
22 Charge for services
25 Medicated
26 Irregularly notched
27 Plays' players
28 Eve's grandson
29 Uses a lever
30 Change for a five
31 Ground grain
32 Prince Valiant's wife
33 Tyrant flycatcher
35 Hertz rival
36 Always
38 Supervises
39 Conceited ones
44 Jan. honoree
45 Biblical vessel
46 Bergen's Mortimer
47 European viper
48 Irwin of golf
49 On the quiet side
50 Poker fee
51 Dark time in ads
52 Set out to lose
53 __ Verde National Park
54 Picnic pests
55 Poet Ogden
56 WWII soldiers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62 63 64

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/10/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

N	O	M	A	D		G	R	I	D		F	A	D	E
A	R	O	A	R		R	O	S	A		I	M	A	N
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F	L	A	X	E	N		C	H	I	E	F			
I	O	T	A	S		C	H	A	R	L	A	T	A	N
S	P	E	C		P	O	O	L	S		S	A	B	U
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			L	E	G	A	L		S	P	I	K	E	S
P	L	A	Y	S			S	N	O	O	T	S		
R	U	L	E	O	U	T		U	R	N		S	R	A
O	N	T	V		R	E	D	D	I	S	H	H	U	E
O	G	E	E		G	R	O	G		O	R	O	N	O
F	E	R	N		E	P	E	E		R	E	P	E	N

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10/10/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're courageous. You have great insight into others. You bring a steely concentration to whatever you do. You're excellent with details, and you have a good business savvy. Part of you is shrewd and analytical. You enjoy beauty in your home and strive to make it elegantly comfortable. The year ahead will focus strongly on partnerships and close friendships.

Birthdate of: Dale Earnhardt Jr., race-car driver; Brett Favre, quarterback; Tanya Tucker, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is the best time all year to think how you can improve your closest friendships and partnerships. (For a successful relationship, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): What can you do to improve your job or the way you do it? The New Moon right now is the best time to make new resolutions about this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Since you are playful by nature, hopefully you have established a good balance between play and work. If you haven't, this is a good day to think about this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is the best time all year to think about how you can improve your relations with family members. Also, what can you do to improve where you live?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Communication with others is important. They make your life either more difficult or easier. How is your communication, especially with siblings and relatives?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): What can you do to boost your earnings or find a better job? Today's New Moon is the best time all year to think about this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. Take a look in the mirror. You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You've been so busy lately, it's important to maintain a balance by staying in touch with your inner self. Try to give yourself some moments of solitude. (Smell the roses.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Are you happy with the friends you have? Do you hang out with quality people? Would you want to have you as a friend?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The New Moon today is the perfect time to think about your relationship to authority figures—teachers, parents, bosses, VIPs and the police. How do you handle these?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): What can you do to improve your knowledge of the world or the skills that you need for your job? Do a serious reality check about this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today is an opportunity for you to think about how to deal with shared property, debt, taxes and other red-tape details. Don't let this slide.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		5	3					
	4		8					
3				4				8
9	2	1			6	4	5	
		8						1
		4						7
		3	4	9	8	7	1	2
		9		6		8		5
		2		5		6		4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/10

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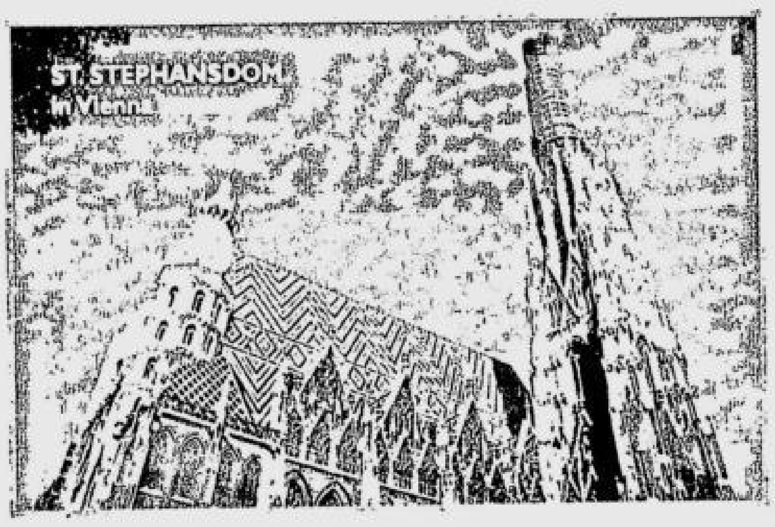
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

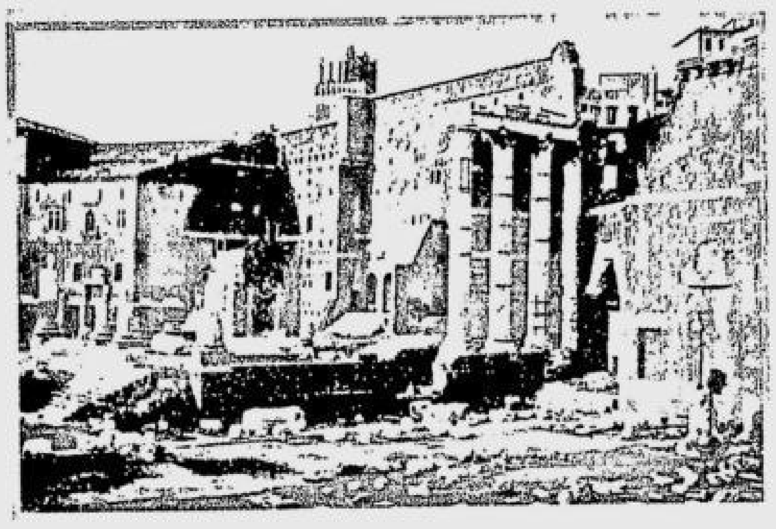
Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	3	5	6	7	9	1	2
2	9	6	8	1	3	7	5	4
7	5	1	4	9	2	8	6	3
5	1	4	9	3	8	6	2	7
6	8	7	2	5	1	3	4	9
9	3	2	7	4	6	5	8	1
3	2	8	1	7	5	4	9	6
1	7	9	6	8	4	2	3	5
4	6	5	3	2	9	1	7	8

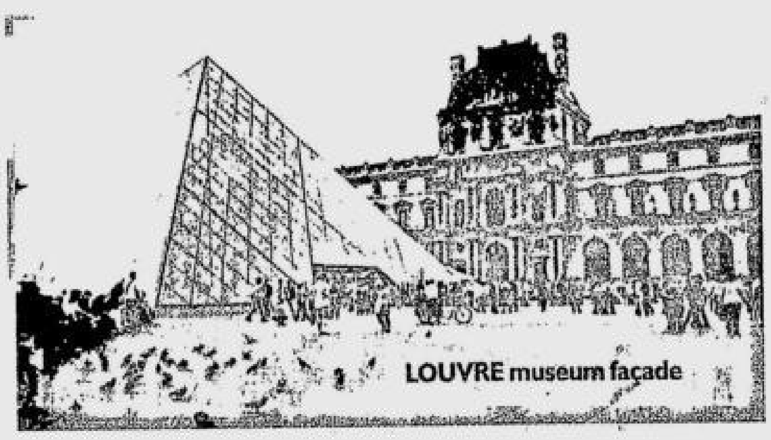
Difficulty Level ★★



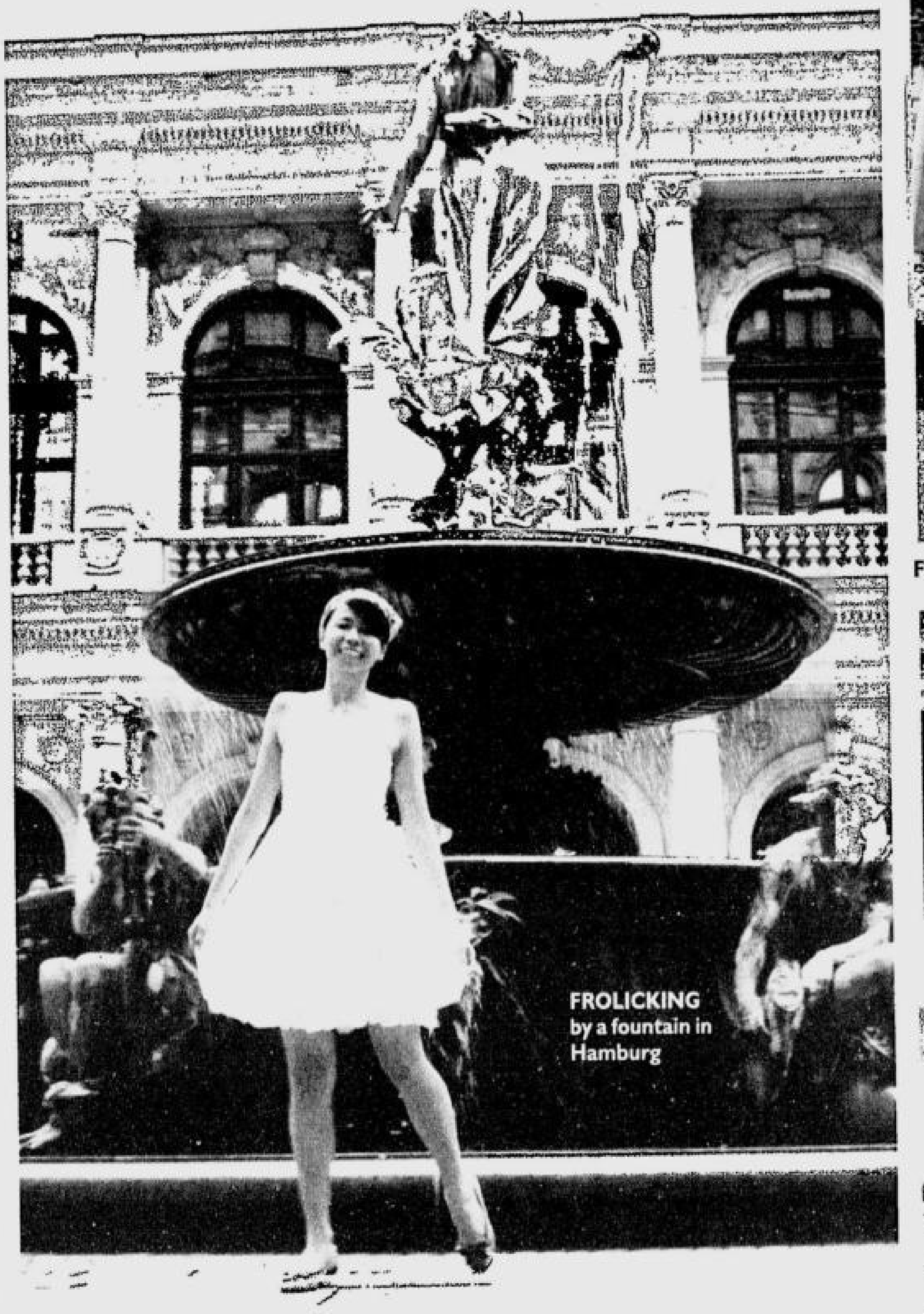
ST. STEPHANSDOM in Vienna



RUINS of an ancient Roman city



LOUVRE museum façade



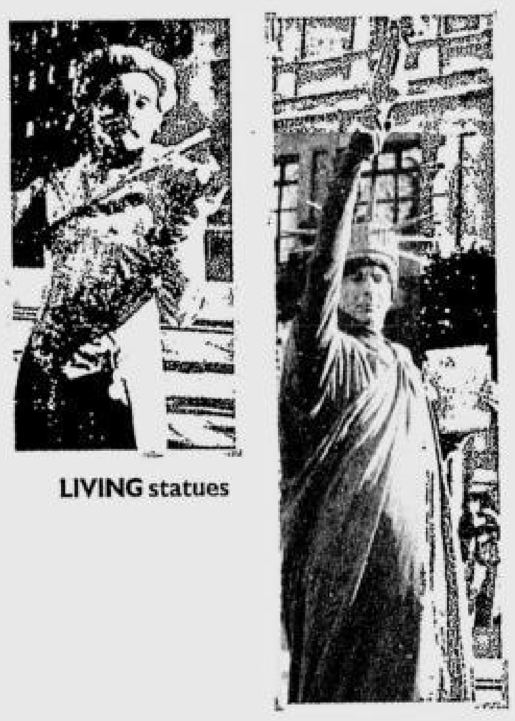
FROLICKING by a fountain in Hamburg

FONTANA di Trevi

AT THE Panth

THE ORIGINAL Sacher Torte

Seeing life in pink



LIVING statues

From page D1

Although fatigue tempted me to rip my map into shreds and join them, I continued my solo walking tour out of sheer stubbornness. I wanted to experience the city on my own terms, which I couldn't do with a group that went wherever a tour guide waving a little flag decided to go.

By walking through dark alleys and by taking the metro trains, I saw the Paris that was hidden from view: urine-soaked and dirty, with obscene graffiti on street corners. But I also saw the Paris that the world wanted to see, with its rosy landscapes, breathtaking monuments and boulangeries that turned out hot, flaky pastries and cream-filled macaroons every hour.

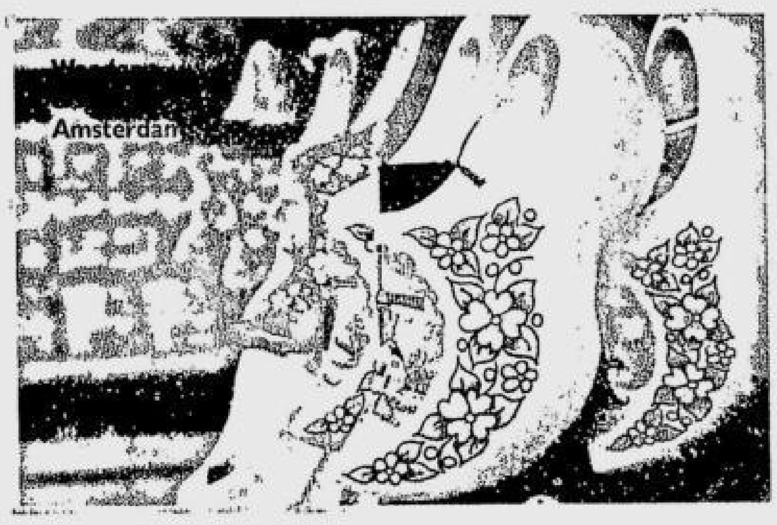
Strange looks

The same commute-and-walk rule applied for the other cities I visited—Hamburg, Berlin, Amsterdam, Vienna and Rome. I hopped on buses and trains and often got off on a whim, not knowing where I would end up.

On the trains, I saw revelers throw up after having too many bottles of booze, and old ladies nervously clutch their bags whenever tattoo-covered teenagers drew near. In the dim lights of the subway, couples slipped frantic hands under undone buttons and raised skirts.

Traveling alone and trekking through the lesser-known parts of the cities provided a few scares along with the thrills. Not only did I face the potential danger of getting into trouble in a city where I knew no one, but I also had to compute if a cup of ice cream would put a serious strain on my finances.

And it was lonely, sometimes. Upon arriving in Vienna, I dragged my heavy luggage along cobbled roads in search of the place where I was going to stay, dead tired and asking God why I was alone in such a strange place.

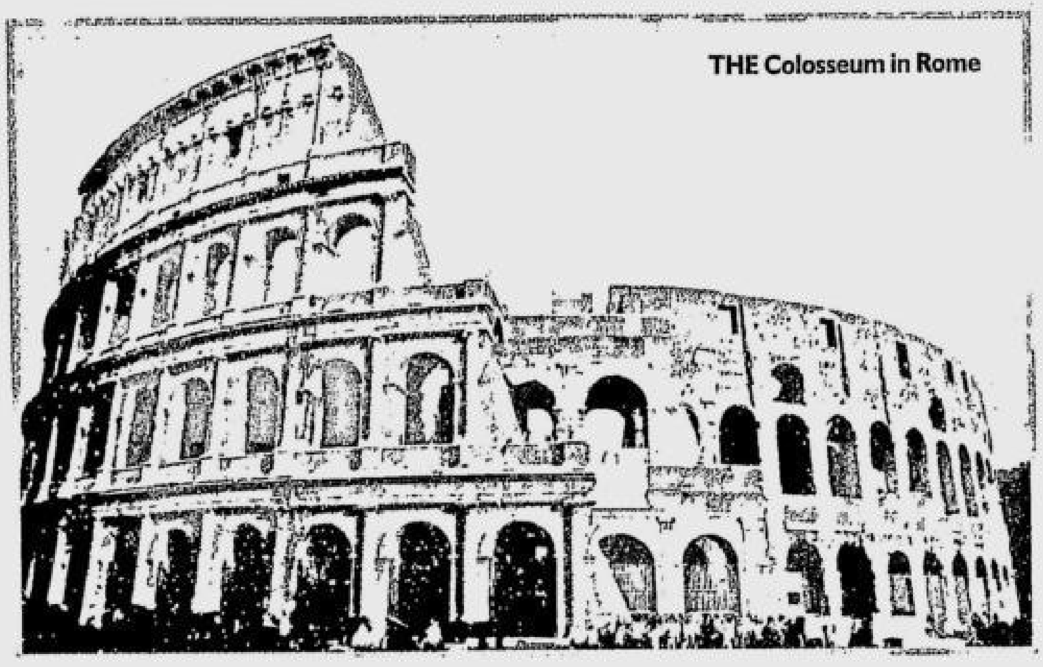


Amsterdam

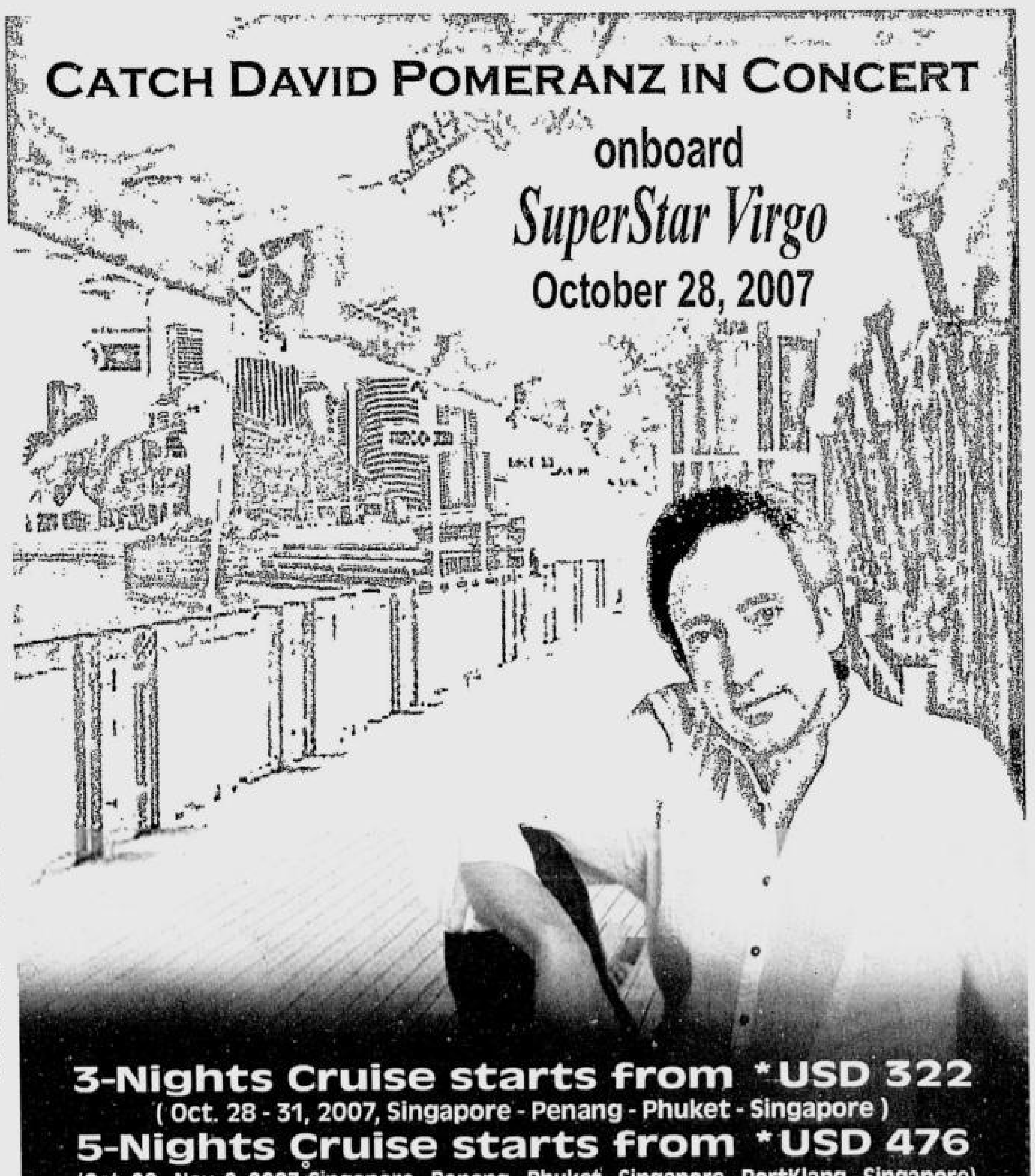
In Amsterdam, I walked through the phosphorescent streets, smelling sickly-sweet smoke floating over from coffee shops, clutching my bag tightly and worrying more than was necessary, longing for a reassuring hand. The crimson glow of the red-light district lent an eerie mood to the streets, where lingerie-clad women in the windows beckoned to passerby.

Also, I became an expert at ignoring the strange looks people gave me whenever I took my own photos with my digital SLR. While sympathetic strangers occasionally offered to take photos for me, most of my photos were taken with a camera held at an arm's length (which is strange when your camera is almost as large as your head). In contrast, large groups giggled happily as

SEEING/ D4



THE Colosseum in Rome



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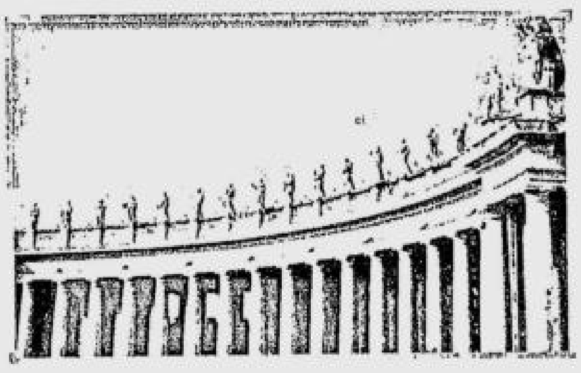
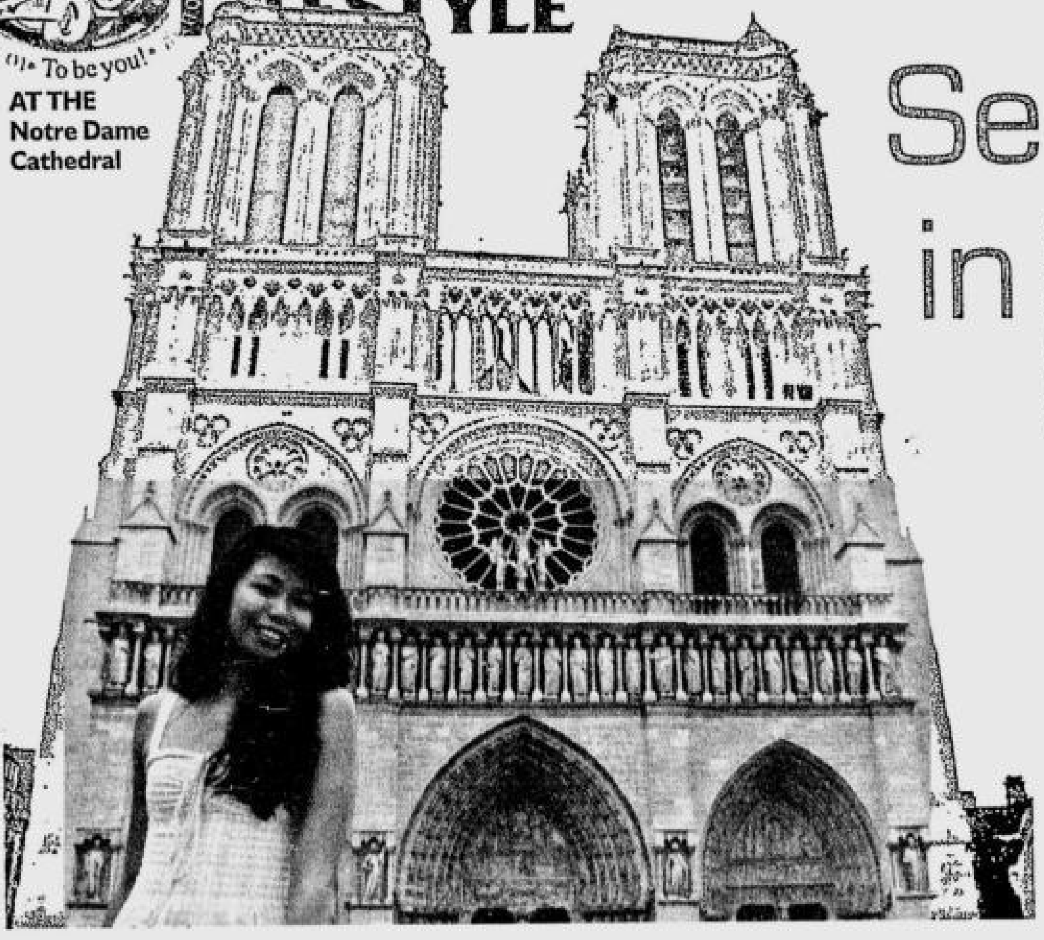


GRAFFITI on a Berlin wall (above); Statues on St. Peter's Square (right)



AT THE Notre Dame Cathedral

Seeing life in pink

From page D3

they posed in front of ancient statues and bubbling fountains.

However, the benefits of traveling alone more than made up for the lack of decent photos. It was only because I was alone that I allowed awed tears to trickle down my cheeks in the echoing chambers of the Notre Dame Cathedral as I lit a candle and knelt to pray.

It was only because I was alone that I could linger over cups of gelato, letting each sweet mouthful wash over my tongue and melt down my throat. It was only because I was alone that I could watch the crowds at Rome's Trevi Fountain for hours, or listen to Vienna's street musicians without wondering if I was delaying someone's schedule.

Without being forced to constantly make conversation with a companion, I was able to appreciate little things, like how the cerulean skies contrasted with the crumbling ruins of ancient churches. At St. Peter's Basilica, I heard Mass without understanding a word of the Italian sermon, but I still felt it tug at my soul.

Rose-colored glasses

Traveling around Europe on my own made me see life through rose-colored glasses. For a few weeks, I got rid of the grime that marred my own perspective on life, and marveled at the most simple things. Colors seemed brighter, the air smelled sweeter, and food tasted better because I knew I had to make each moment count.

In all the countries I visited, I had cheese, and plenty of it: aged Parmesan cheese that crumbled at the slightest touch, thick wedges of creamy blue-veined cheese, cheese covered with slivered almonds and cracked pepper.

There was plenty of good wine, fresh fruit, sausages, Wiener schnitzel, and thin, crackling pizza. Dessert was always a special affair; I tried the original sacher torte at Vienna's Hotel Sacher and had thick berry compotes bloated with cream in Germany.

Italian ice cream, however, erased all memories of the desserts I previously had. I had honey-flavored gelato, gelato with meringue and hazelnuts, gelato topped with fresh cream and chocolate biscuits.

If not for all the walking that I had to do, I would have gained 50 pounds. But I promised myself that there would be time to sleep and diet when I got back home. While I was there, I had to enjoy, and that meant savoring each spoonful of food, and every waking moment.

In just a few weeks, I was able to do a lot of things that I'd always wanted to do as a child: I watched the Vienna Boys' Choir, took a crazy scooter ride around Rome (just as Hepburn had done in "Roman Holiday"), sat on the Spanish Steps, took my photo against the Eiffel Tower, and pretended to be a gladiator at the Colosseum, among many others.

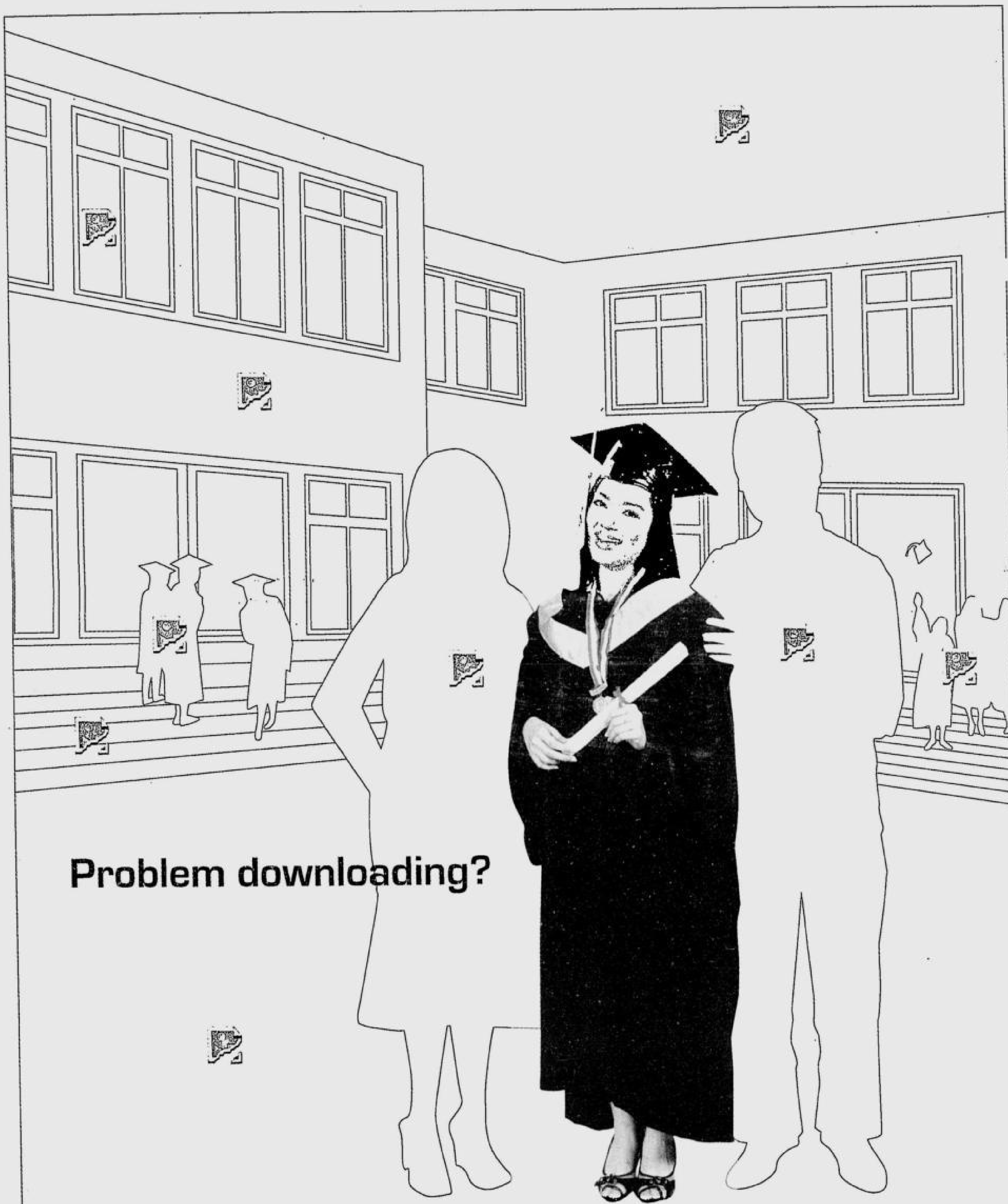
There were also things that I never expected to happen—like getting asked out by random people on the street—that made my mini-vacation more interesting.

At the Trevi Fountain, I clutched a coin in my fist, closed my eyes, and let it soar over the water, wishing with all my might that my next trip wouldn't be too far away.

I went to Europe in pursuit of a childhood dream and came back with more than just a fulfilled wish. The trip taught me how to dream even more, but more importantly, it taught me how to fulfill my own dreams.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

EUROPEAN delicacies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ORANGE and Lemons: Ace and JM del Mundo, Clem Castro and Mcoy Fundales

Hot band disbands

By Pocholo Concepcion

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE ORANGE AND Lemons ... They just wanted to kick me out. Absurd and outrageous.

"The recent ballyhooed misunderstanding between me and my band mates, including [our management] No Seat Affair and [record label] Universal Records, has yet to reach a conclusion. I'm sorry if it took me a while to post anything official since I am still trying to assess the situation and settle our differences. Time is a very important element. I assure you that this is not a publicity gimmick."

These statements were posted by Orange and Lemons guitarist/co-songwriter Clem Castro in his blogspot three months ago, shortly before the band flew to the US for a concert series.

Differences

Then, last week, Universal announced Orange and Lemons' official breakup, based on a letter sent by the band's management, which cited "individual and musical differences."

The trouble that had been brewing and which finally led to the split was said to have begun at the recording sessions for the band's latest album, "Moonlane Gardens."

Sources privy to the infighting alleged that Clem had contested certain creative decisions.

"Clem wanted to have his own say, *kasi parati na lang si* Mcoy (Fundales, lead vocalist/co-songwriter) *ang parang nabibigyan ng* attention," the source said. "Even the choice of what promo single to release was a cause for arguments."

The perceived insecurity on Clem's part was what led him, according to the source, to raise a fuss during a press con several months ago to promote the new album.

The incident made it to the Internet, with chat groups wondering why Clem was being "kicked out."

When the group returned from the US concerts, their management and label tried to patch things up between Clem and the rest of the band. But the rift had worsened.

The latest word is that Mcoy plans to either go solo or form a new group with his old band's rhythm section, the brothers Ace and JM del Mundo.

Mcoy also reportedly tried to audition as cast member of the new edition of the reality TV show "Pinoy Big Brother."

Clem is likewise bent on forming his own band. He allegedly warned his ex-band mates not to use the name Orange and Lemons—because he had coined it.

Formed in 2003 and heavily influenced by The Beatles and The Smiths, Orange and Lemons parlayed its melodic, pop-rock sound into a widely successful career with only two albums—the indie release "Love in the Land of Rubber Shoes and Dirty Ice Cream" (Terno Recordings) and the major debut "Strike Whilst the Iron is Hot" (Universal).

The band was named Best New Artist for 2004 at the NU Rock Awards.

In 2005, its recording of "Pinoy Ako," commissioned as the theme for ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother," became a huge hit in the country and among Filipinos abroad. Critics claimed it borrowed heavily from a British song, "Chandeliers," by The Care. But no formal complaint was filed.

FEEDBACK

Fall Out gaps

From Katrina Patiño (potatokat00 @yahoo.com), 55 R. Perez St. BF Homes (Pque.), Las Piñas:

There were errors in your Fall Out Boy article, "Punks with Pop Appeal" by Pocholo Concepcion.

It was not Patrick Stump who said, "This one's about having a light in the dark." It was Pete Wentz (bassist). Joe Trohman was not the only founder of the band. It was his and Pete's idea. You spelled mic as "mike." They played Michael Jackson's "Beat It," not "Thriller."

***

You're right. Since Pete Wentz is the band's "primary lyricist," he's the one who knows the song's content. Although he's credited as the band's co-founder, Pete says he only made it known to catch attention, and that Joe Trohman was the real founder. The dictionary says "microphone's" informal usage may be spelled as either "mic" or "mike." Sorry for the lapses and thanks for calling our attention.

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Ticket Price THX:P160 .190 Indie Sine : 130 632-9116

1 NO RESERVATION • THX
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 RETRIBUTION
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 indieSine: STILL LIFE
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
NO RESERVATIONS
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA

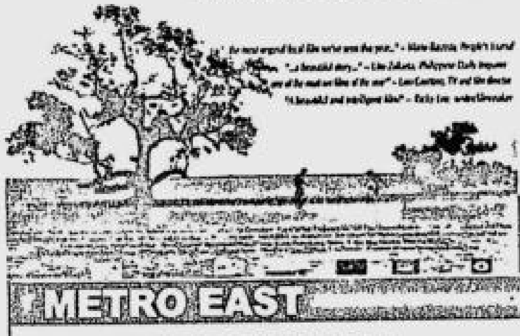
Glaiza de Castro

introducing Ron Capinding

a film by katski flores

Still Life

Live like a masterpiece.



a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is affected with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

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1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 RETRIBUTION
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 DECEMBER BOYS

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 / 935-3231 / 936-2229-30

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P.90 (043) 312-5870

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 STARDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P.90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 SIGNOS

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NANCY DREW
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

STARMILLS

(045) 875-1927

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 THE HOST

BACOLOD

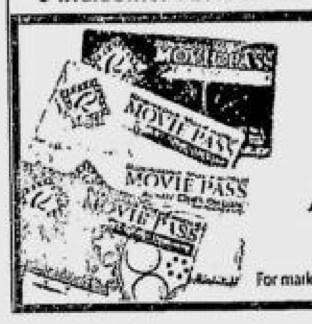
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DAYWATCH
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieSine: TUKSO

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-6070

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DAYWATCH
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY



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A DID YOU KNOW...

HONG KONG—ANG LEE'S AWARD-WINNING Chinese-language spy thriller "Lust, Caution" has broken the $100 million mark in his native Taiwan, a result usually only achieved by Hollywood blockbusters, one of the movie's investors said Friday.

"Lust, Caution" has made NT$128 million ($3.9 million) as of Thursday, Edko Films general manager for sales and acquisitions Audrey Lee told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The movie has also generated much buzz in Chinese-speaking communities for its strong sexuality. *AP*

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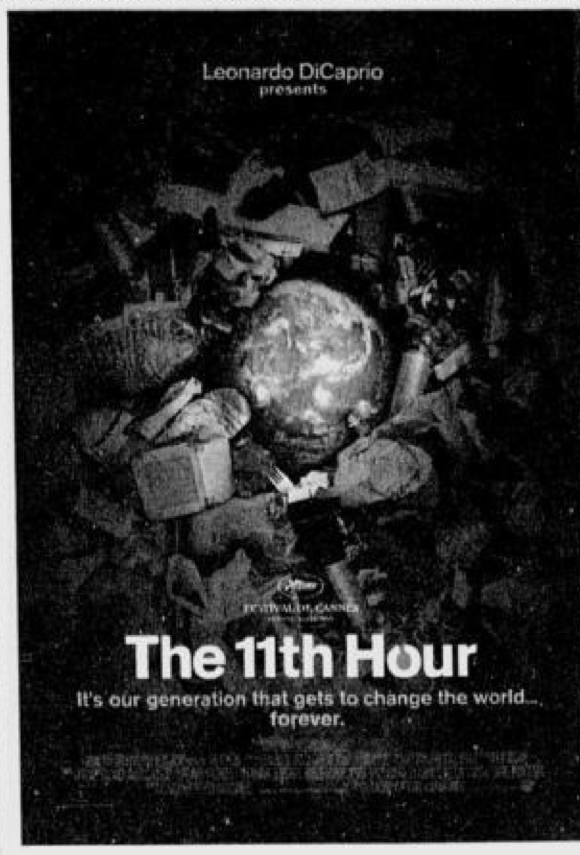

Leonardo DiCaprio presents

The 11th Hour

It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.

WB AND SM CINEMA join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila
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T-REX 3D 11:30 AM • 1:00 PM	Admission Price: P250
NASCAR 5:30 PM	Admission Price: P200

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 STARDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 ONE PERCENT FULL/I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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STARDUST
CINEMA 2
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RETRIBUTION
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL
7 STARDUST
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 ONE PERCENT FULL
10 11TH HOUR
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 STARDUST
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 DECEMBER BOYS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 STARDUST
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 1408
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 WEDDING DAZE
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 STARDUST
2 SKINWALKERS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 DAYWATCH
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 STARDUST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 OSS 117
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 STARDUST

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 BLIND DATING
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 DAYWATCH
6 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 DAYWATCH
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 **RESERVED**
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 **RESERVED**
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 ONE PERCENT FULL
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning October 5

TW	LW	Title	Gross
1	☆	The Game Plan	$ 16.3 mln
2	☆	The Heartbreak Kid	$ 14.0 mln
3	2	The Kingdom	$ 9.3 mln
4	3	Resident Evil: Extinction	$ 4.3 mln
5	☆	The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising	$ 3.7 mln
6	4	Good Luck Chuck	$ 3.5 mln
7	☆	Feel the Noise	$ 3.4 mln
8	5	3:10 to Yuma	$ 3.0 mln
9	6	The Brave One	$ 2.3 mln
10	7	Mr. Woodcock	$ 2.0 mln

TW This week
LW Last week
☆ New release
WR Wee in release

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!

$24,168,865

HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)

2ND WEEK
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

OPENS OCTOBER 17

From the Producers of
"THE WEDDING CRASHERS"

LETTING GO OF YOUR PAST IS HARD...
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S DATING YOUR MOM.
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
BILLY BOB THORNTON
AND SUSAN SARANDON
MR. WOODCOCK

MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ORIGINAL GANG from "KUNG FU HUSTLE" is BACK
MORE ACTION. MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS. MORE LAUGHS.

VANNESS WU
IRON HEAD
MADAM BUTTERFLY
THE BEAST
THE INSPECTOR
FAT BOY
AXE GANG LEADER
OPENS TODAY
功夫
KUNG FU FiGHTER

MTRCB ▷ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM OF "ANG CUTE NG INA MO"
THE HIGHEST GROSSING COMEDY OF ALL TIME

Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo Pokwang Candy Pangilinan

Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT

FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH

Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURANO DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY VINCE SALDANA CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RYCHARD EVERLY

Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS

GRAND OPENING TODAY

PLDT Budget DZRH 28 VIVA

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

1 (DOLBY) STURDUST
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

PREMIERE
WEDDING DAZE
DECEMBER BOYS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

THEATRES
Telephone No. (049) 600-2025

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271

APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ROGUE ASSASSIN
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 STURDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 ONE PERCENT FULL

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341937

1 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
2 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 HOST
3
4

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 SKINWALKERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5031 to 03

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SHOOT EM UP
4 I FALLEN FOR YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 (DOLBY) STURDUST
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 HOST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RISE BLOOD HUNTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
3 LAST LEGION
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 SABIK SA PAG IBIG
3 KANDUNGAN
4 DISTURBIA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 HOST
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 ALIPIN NG ALIW
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPENING TODAY

Still Life

Stars Glaiza de Castro, Ron Capinding, Irma Adlawan

Directed by Katslde Flores

An enigmatic lass (De Castro) becomes the muse of a depressed painter (Capinding). An entry in this year's Cinemalaya, this digital movie boasts "powerful performances from neophyte De Castro and theater actors Capinding and Adlawan," opines Cinemalaya juror Lito Zulueta. "It's a beautiful story." Kapamilya star John Lloyd Cruz appears in an uncredited cameo. Exclusively in IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria.

Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat

Stars Rufa Mae Quinto, Candy Pangilinan, Eugene Domingo, Pokwang

Directed by Wenn V. Deramas

Three friends, who work in Hong Kong as domestic helpers, return home with the corpse of a pal whose relatives think she's still alive. With her company On-Q28, Quinto co-produced this comedy with Viva Films. She jokingly calls the movie "death-defying." Seriously, she asserts that she wants to give her talented co-stars the same break given to her as a newcomer. "They deserve to be lead stars."

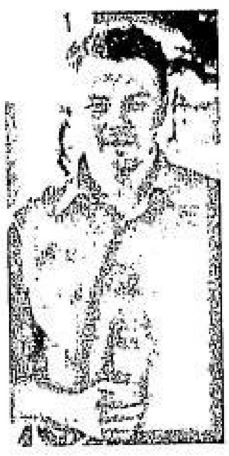
One Percent Full

Stars Burton Richardson, Ronnie Ricketts, Andrea del Rosario, Niño Muhlach

Directed by Burton Richardson

An American martial-arts whiz (Richardson) hides from mercenaries in a squatters' area where he is protected by his Pinoy bodyguard (Ricketts). Richardson is a Jeet Kune Do instructor who has trained Hollywood action stars Steven Seagal, Keanu Reeves and Brandon Lee. Richardson says that he's "impressed" with Ricketts' ideas and wishes to collaborate on more movies with him.

The 11th Hour



Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio

Directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

The star of "Titanic" produced and narrated this documentary on global warming. John Anderson of Newsday sums it up as "a well-made, passionate and overlong treatise." Manohla Dargis of New York Times comments that the "images [in this docu] are pointedly horrifying, not reassuring." Joe Garofoli of San Francisco Chronicle agrees: "There's still some serious food for thought here."

SIENNA Miller and Charlie Cox in 'Stardust'

Stardust

Stars Claire Danes, Charlie Cox, Robert de Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer

Directed by Matthew Vaughn

Based on a novel by "Sandman" creator Neil Gaiman, this romantic fantasy chronicles the journey of an ordinary lad (Cox) who must save a fallen star (Danes) from pirates and witches. Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times says it possesses "adult sensibility." Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly calls it a "beguiling pastiche of storybook magic." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times rants that the "jigsaw never gets solved."

Retribution

Stars Koji Yakusho, Manami Konishi, Riona Hazuki

Directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa

A burnt-out cop (Yakusho) probes the death of a young woman (Hazuki). His investigation takes an eerie turn when he finds a button from his coat at the murder scene. Derek Elley of Variety dismisses it as "a clever box of tricks that keeps turning the tables on the viewer … but lacks the sheer clammy-handed creepiness of Kurosawa's earlier movies." Henry Stewart of Cinepinion concurs: "It's incredibly difficult to follow."

Kung-Fu Fighter

Stars Vanness Wu, Lam Chi-Chung, Chan Kwok-Kwan, Max Zhang

Directed by Yip Wing-Kin

Wu (of "Meteor Garden" fame) stars in this "sequel" to the chop-socky hit "Kung-Fu Hustle" as a martial-arts hero searching for his father in 1930s Shanghai. Kozo of the "I Love HK Film" website describes it "as cheap cinematic déjà vu … [only offers] a generic story and uninteresting acting." A reviewer on Yahoo Singapore Movies complains: "The story line went haywire … the kung-fu scenes [were] mediocre."

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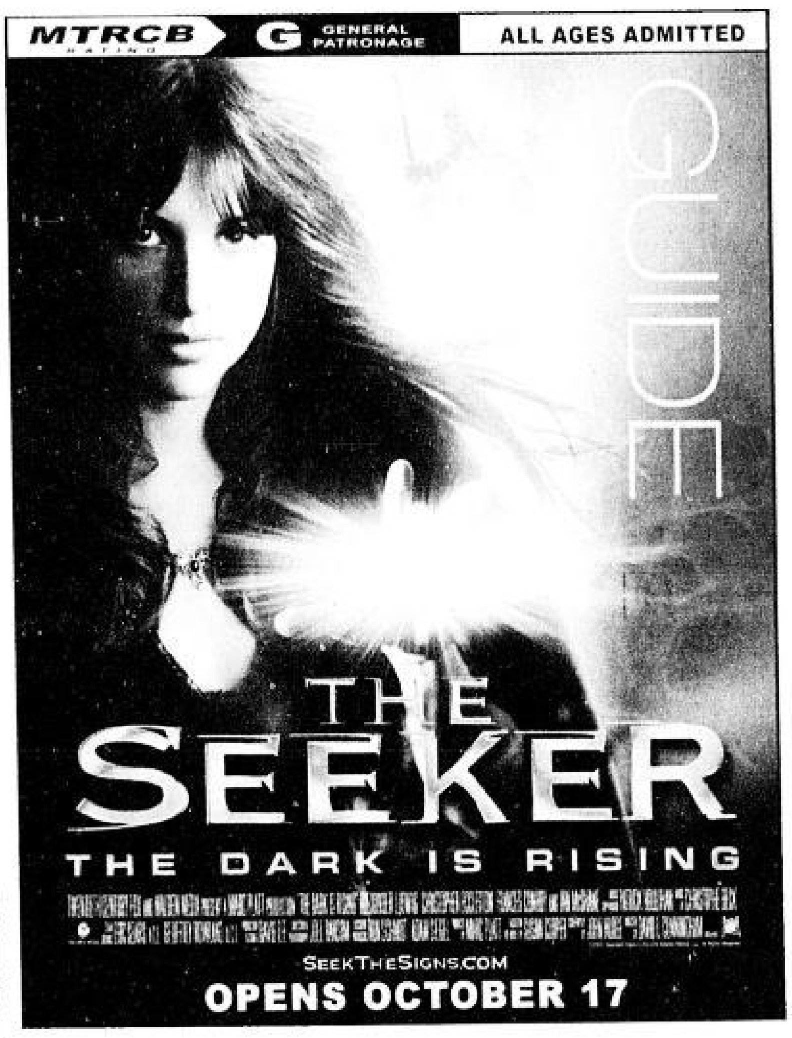

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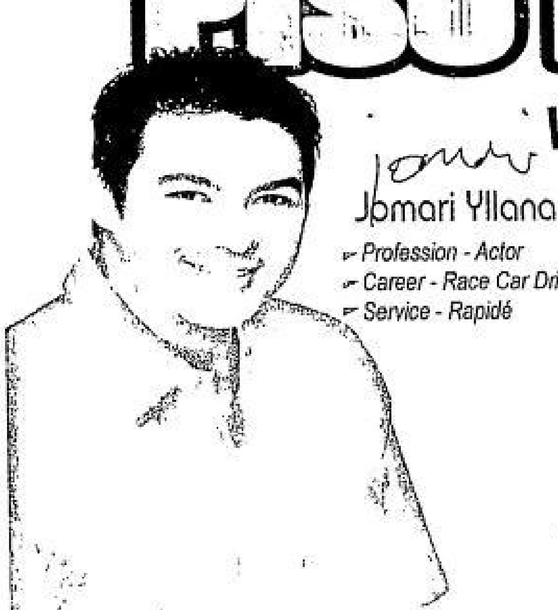

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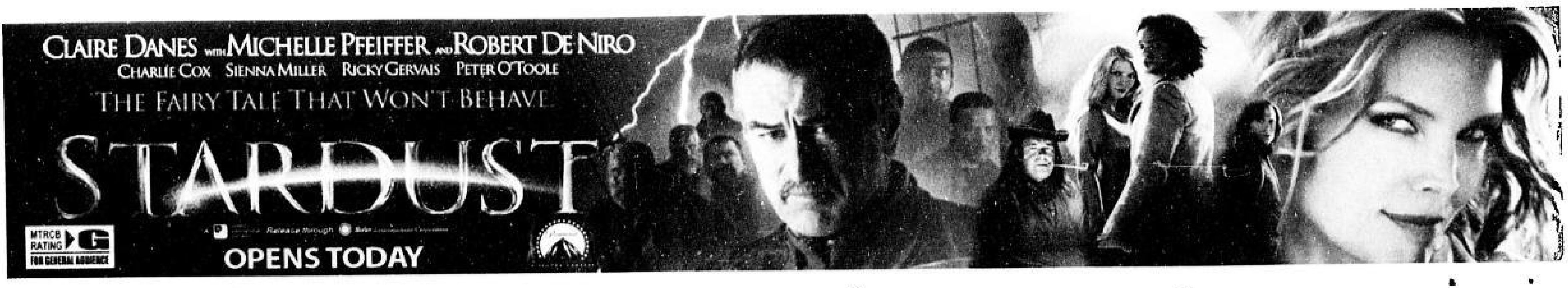
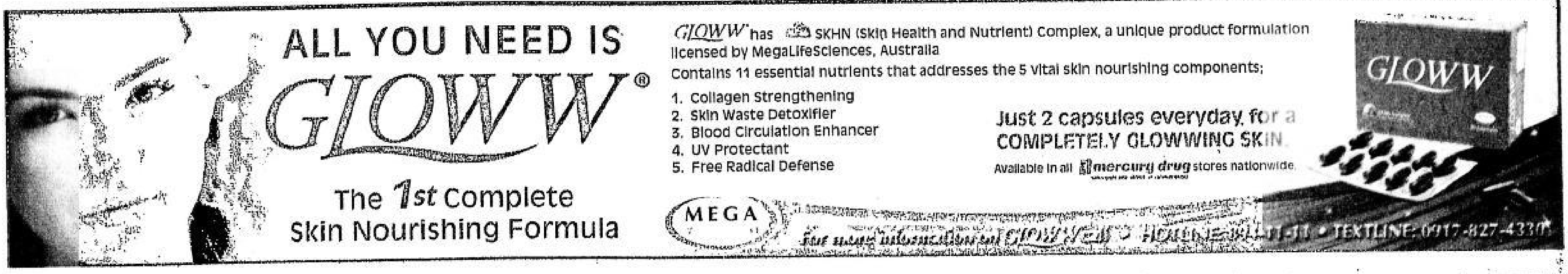


CLAIRE DANES WITH MICHELLE PFEIFFER AND ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX SIENNA MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE
STARDUST
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
Release through
OPENS TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE

Martin chides Pops on national TV Rushes /F4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RP films in CNN, Unesco awards race

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MARICEL Soriano and Sunshine Cruz in "Inang Yaya"

UNITEL'S "INANG YAYA" AND CINEMALAYA'S "Gulong" were nominated for Best Children's Feature Film, one of nine categories in the 2007 Asia-Pacific Screen Awards.

Tony Gloria, head of Unitel Pictures, told INQUIRER Entertainment that the competition is a joint project of CNN International, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) and will be held next month on Australia's Gold Coast.

Other nominees in the children's category are Indonesia ("Denias, Singing on the Cloud"), Iran ("Locksmith") and Malaysia ("Muksin").

In a letter sent to Gloria, awards chair Des Power said the competition aims to present the region's "diverse culture and depth of talent."

"More than 100 entries from more than 30 countries were considered," said Power.

The contest's website underscores that "film ... and a great filmmaker have the power to change lives."

"The best thing about this event is that the entries will be featured on CNN," said Gloria.

Power affirmed: "Feature programs produced by the [contest], in association with CNN International, will be broadcast to a global audience."

Few in the market

Gloria pointed out that children's feature film as a genre offers a promising niche to producers. "Only a few kid-friendly movies are available in the global market," he said.

Ironically, Pablo Biglang-Awa, "Inang Yaya" co-director, didn't originally envision the movie as a children's film.

"But as [co-director/scriptwriter] Veronica Velasco wrote it, the children [portrayed by Tala Santos and Erika Oreta], along with the nanny [Maricel Soriano], are the movie's main protagonists."

More than cute moppets, the children were considered "active" players in the drama. "They were instrumental in transforming the lives of the characters."

Biglang-Awa asserted: "Not all children's movies are animated or fantasy flicks."

He recalled that he had been very careful in motivating the young actors on the set. "We shot during their vacation so as not to disrupt their schooling. We also gave them acting workshops—under theater actors Soliman Cruz and Roence Santos [Tala's parents]. We wanted the children to be natural and realistic."

The Asia-Pacific Screen Awards will be held at the Golden Coast's Sheraton Mirage Resort and Spa on Nov. 13.

Meanwhile, Unitel also teamed up with scriptwriter James Ladioray and director Raul Jorolan, to wrap up "2,999," which dropped out of this year's Cinemalaya.

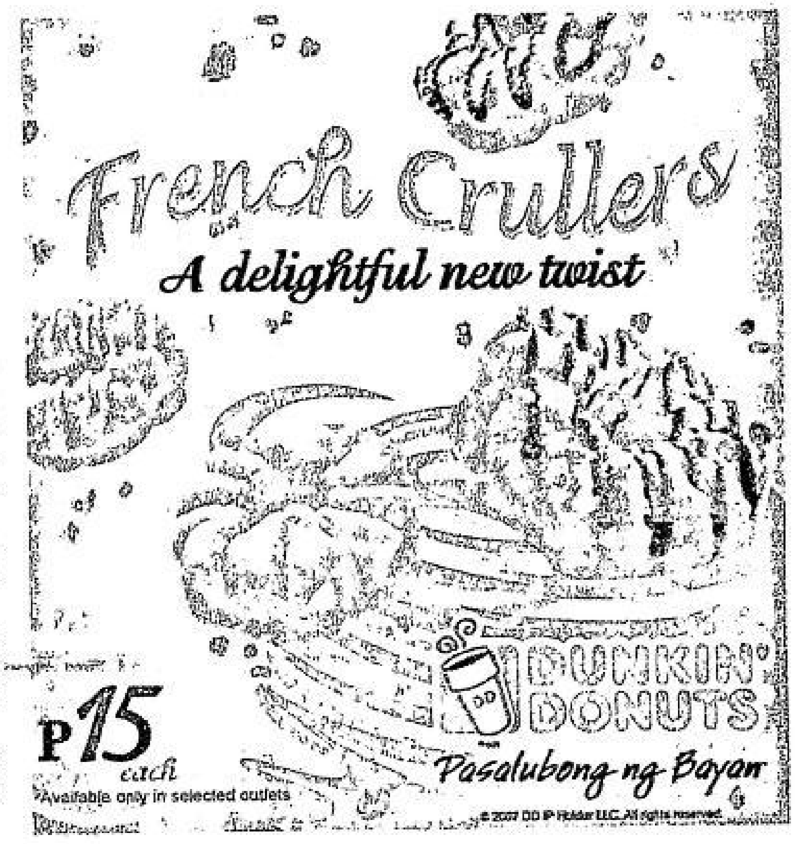
"They are now casting the female lead who will co-star with Marvin Agustin and Tessie Tomas," Gloria reported.

GARDO Versoza and Ina Feleo in "Gulong"

'Bootylicious' in Indonesia

JAKARTA—R&B SINGER BEYONCE KNOWLES WILL not be required to follow a strict dress code when performing next month in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, the organizers of her concert said on Friday.

Beyonce, known for her skimpy stage outfits, cancelled her debut concert in Malaysia in protest against the nation's ultra-strict dress code, an industry source said this week. The 26-year-old former member of the best-selling female group Destiny's Child is also set to bring her current tour, "The Beyonce Experience," to the Philippines at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, on Nov. 7. *Reuters*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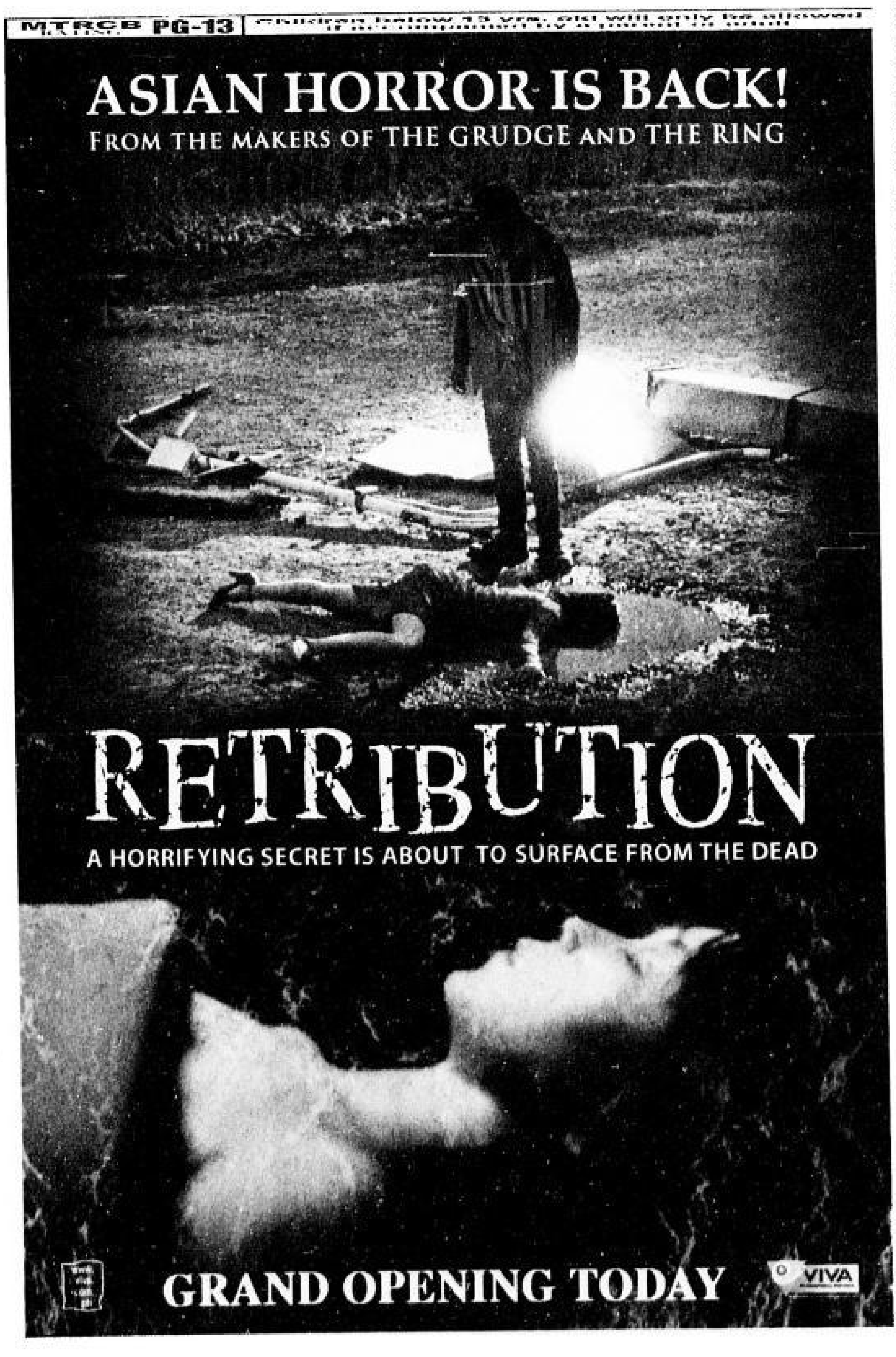
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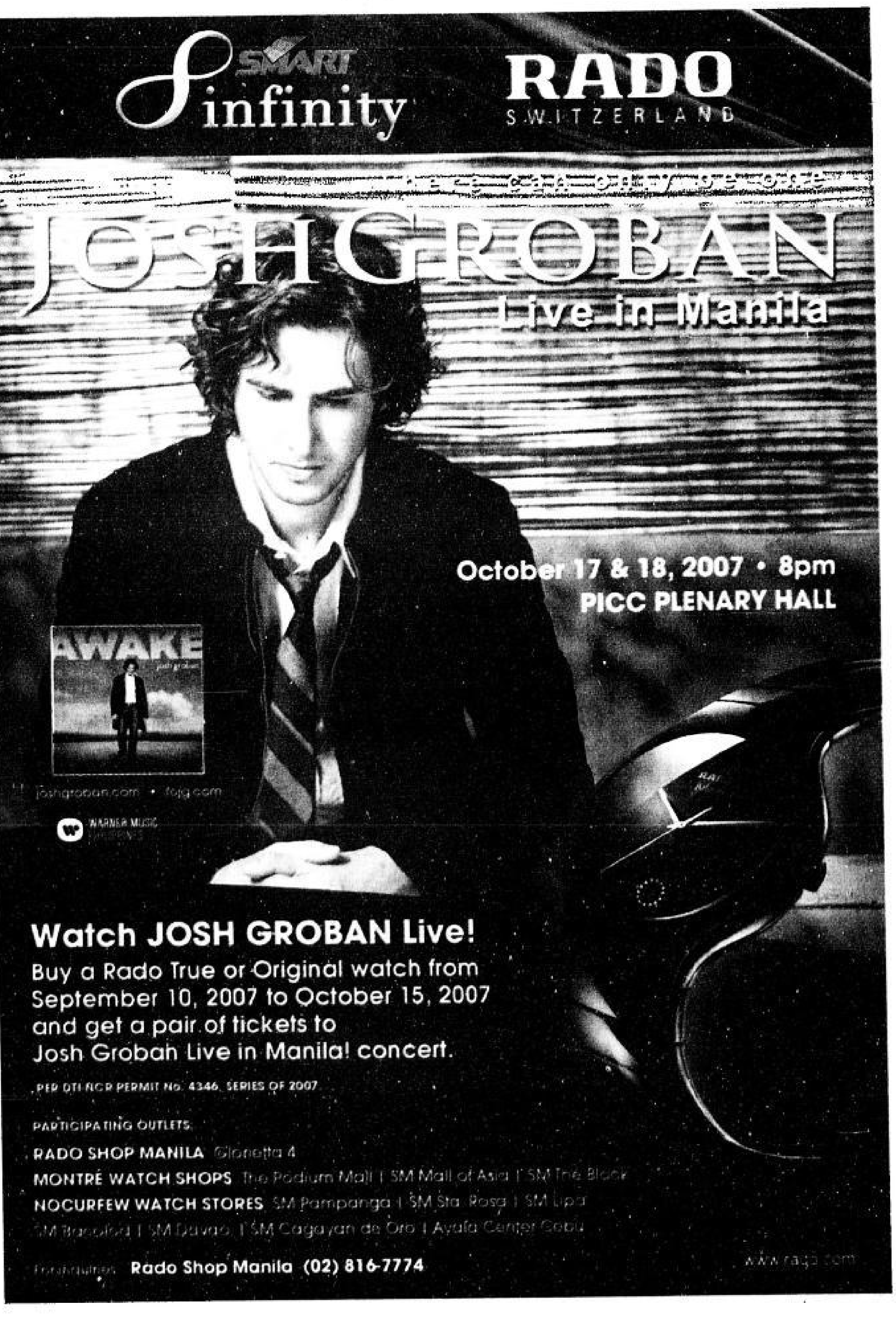
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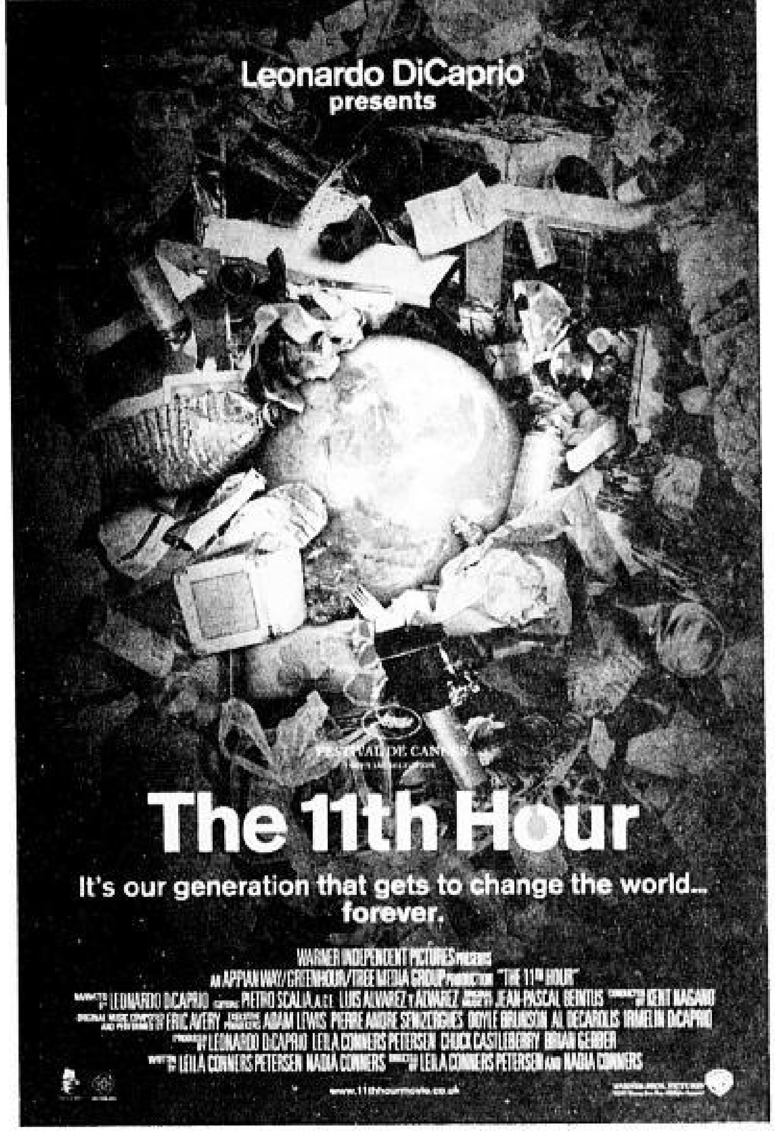
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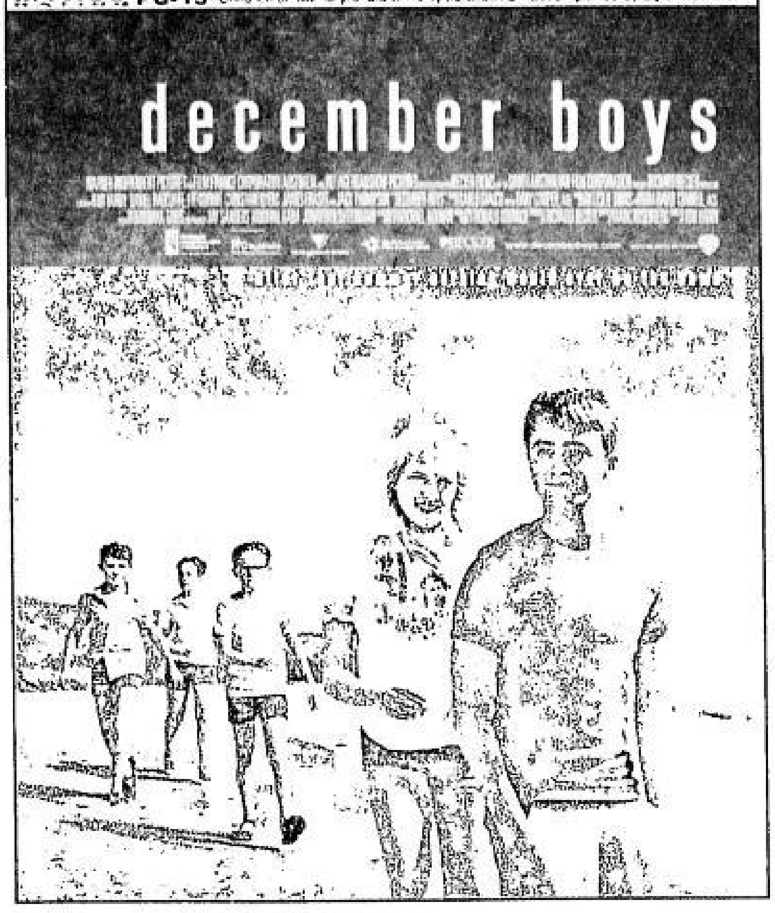
december boys

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4	KUNG FU FIGHTER	PG-13
5	STARDUST	GP

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Venue	Date	Performer	Time
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	October 18 & 19, 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
	October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
	October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

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4 KUNG FU FIGHTERS
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Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	RESIDENT EVIL 3	3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	STARDUST		G
3	KUNG FU FIGHTER		PG-13
4	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	3:20, 5:45, 8:10,10:40	G

AT THE CINEMAS

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	KUNG FU FIGHTER	STARDUST	RETRIBUTION	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT			
GLORIETTA 4	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	NO RESERVATIONS	THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	WEDDING DAZE	THE 11TH HOUR	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	STARDUST					
GREENBELT 3	THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX STARDUST	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	RETRIBUTION	KUNG FU FIGHTER		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	STARDUST	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU				
MARKET! MARKET!	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	RETRIBUTION	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	STARDUST	KUNG FU FIGHTER		
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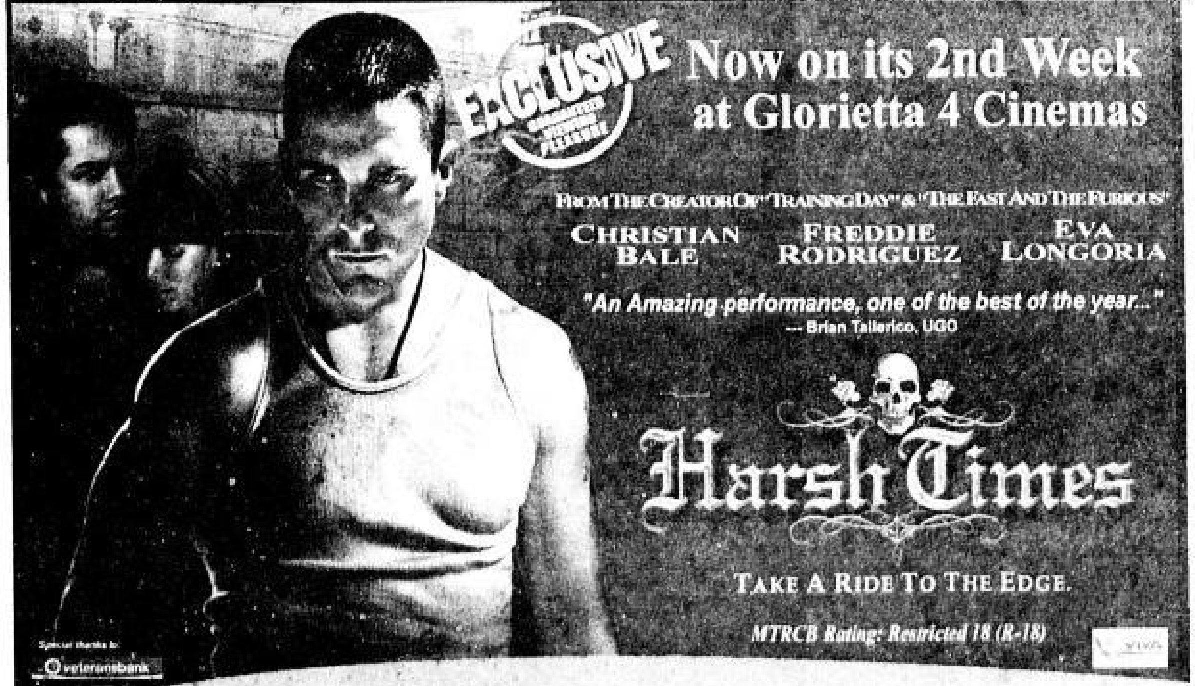
Ayala Malls

Mall	Event
glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Mystery behind…

From page F4

good breaks coming his way, Kimpoy would not waste his hard-earned bucks on a night of reckless abandon. What he is spending for these days is the renovation of his condo unit. Kimpoy sowed his wild oats but now he has mellowed.

Surprise bash

One of my fave people in the biz, Direk **Boots Plata**, e-mailed me pics of Sen. **Chiz Ezcudero**'s surprise 38th birthday party held last Oct. 5 at the residence of **Tita Midz** (Armida Siguion Reyna). The guests included **Susan Roces** and daughter **Mary Grace**, **Marichu Maceda**, **Dolor Guevarra** (wife of Direk Boots), **Carlitos** and **Bibeth Siguion Reyna**.

Chiz's actual birthday is on Oct. 10. He and his wife **Tin-Tin** are overjoyed that their twins—who were born prematurely and had to stay inside an incubator for weeks—are finally with them at home. Those are Chiz's birthday wishes come true!

FPJ tribute

A fitting tribute to the King of Philippine Cinema, **Fernando Poe Jr.**, unveils on the Kapamilya network starting Oct. 20. Called "Cinema FPJ – Da King on ABS-CBN," it will feature certified blockbusters such as "Panday," "Roman Rapido," "Eseng ng Tondo," "Batang Quiapo," "Agila" and many more.

A never before seen music video which FPJ was working on before he died will also be aired on his third death anniversary in December. It contains musical scenes which Da King has chosen from his various movies.

Even after his death, he remains so cool. Imagine, FPJ goes MTV!

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Watching the chanteur non-pareil live would definitely be pure rapture. Oh My Josh! *Grabe* Groban!

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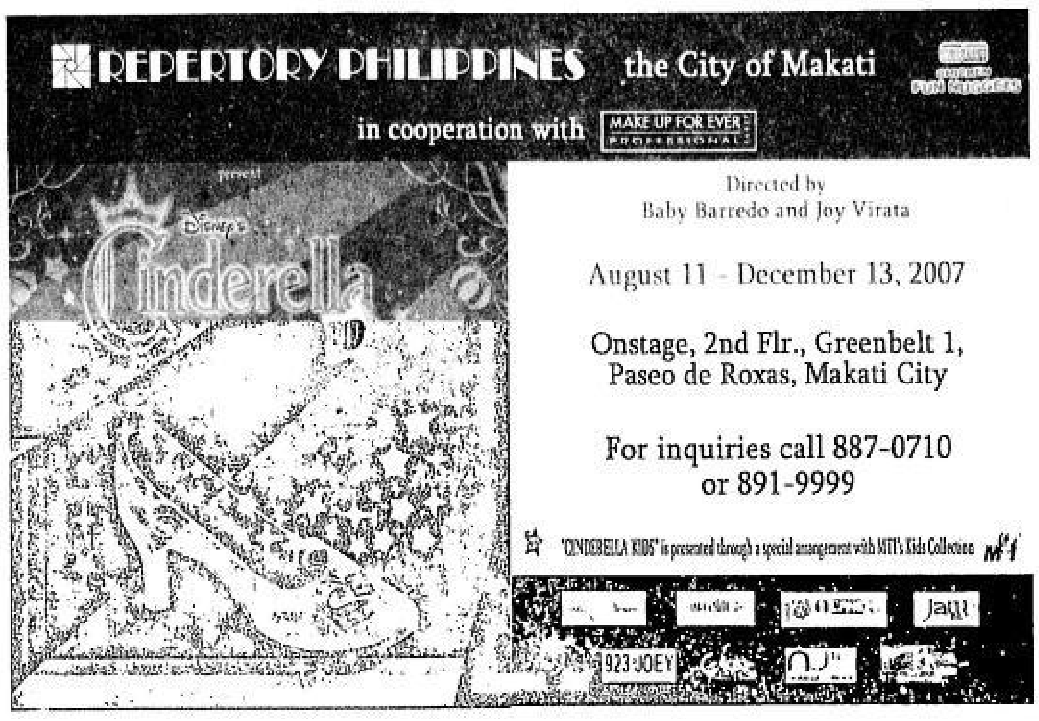
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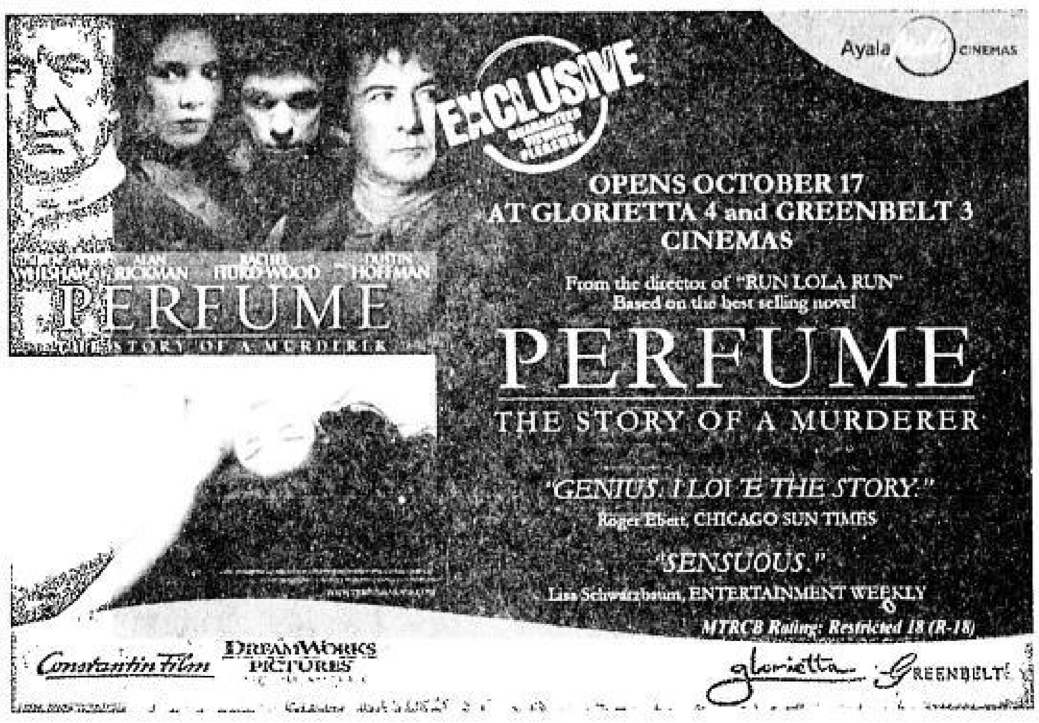
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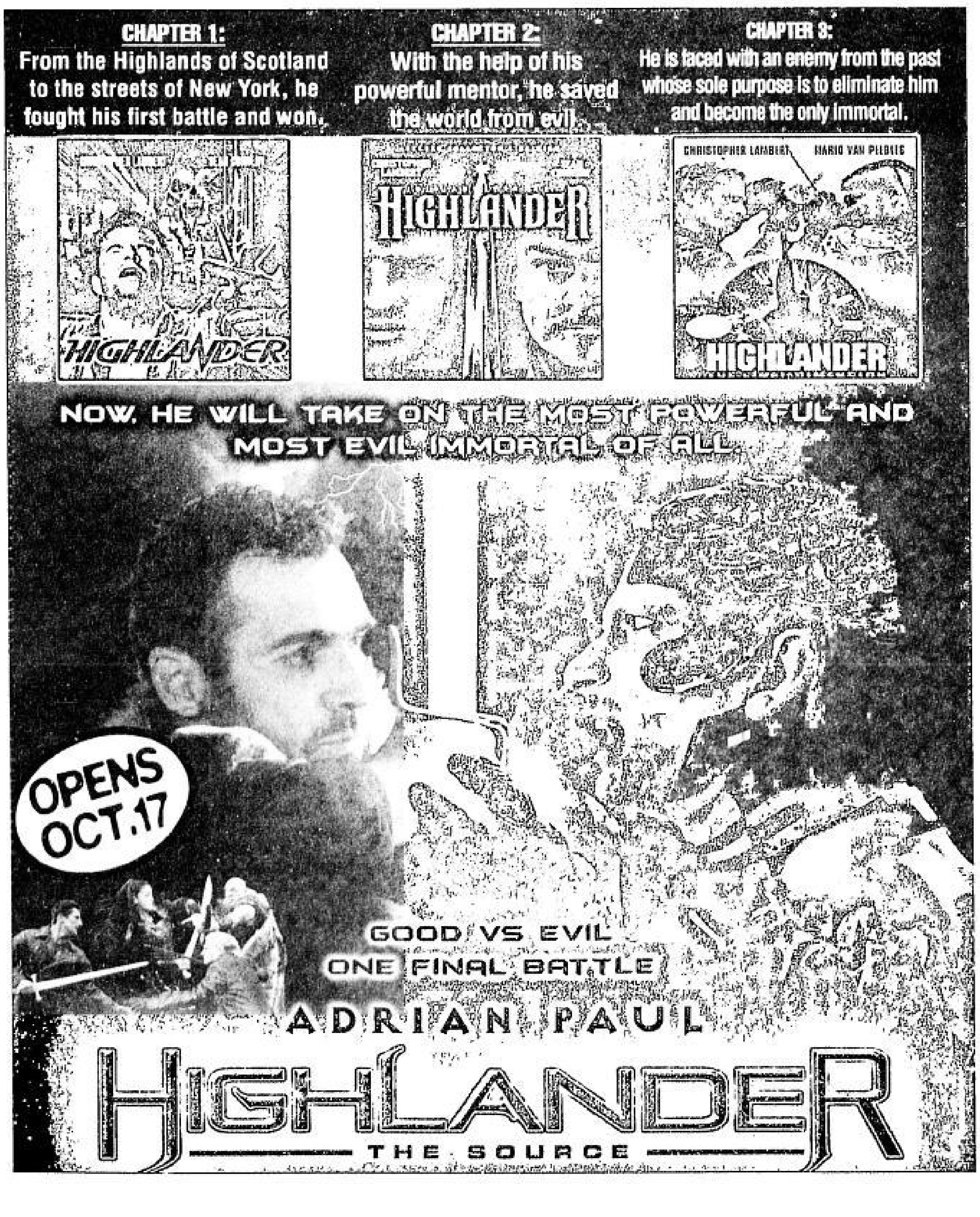
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
Constantin Film
DreamWorks Pictures
Glorietta
Greenbelt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GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE
ADRIAN PAUL
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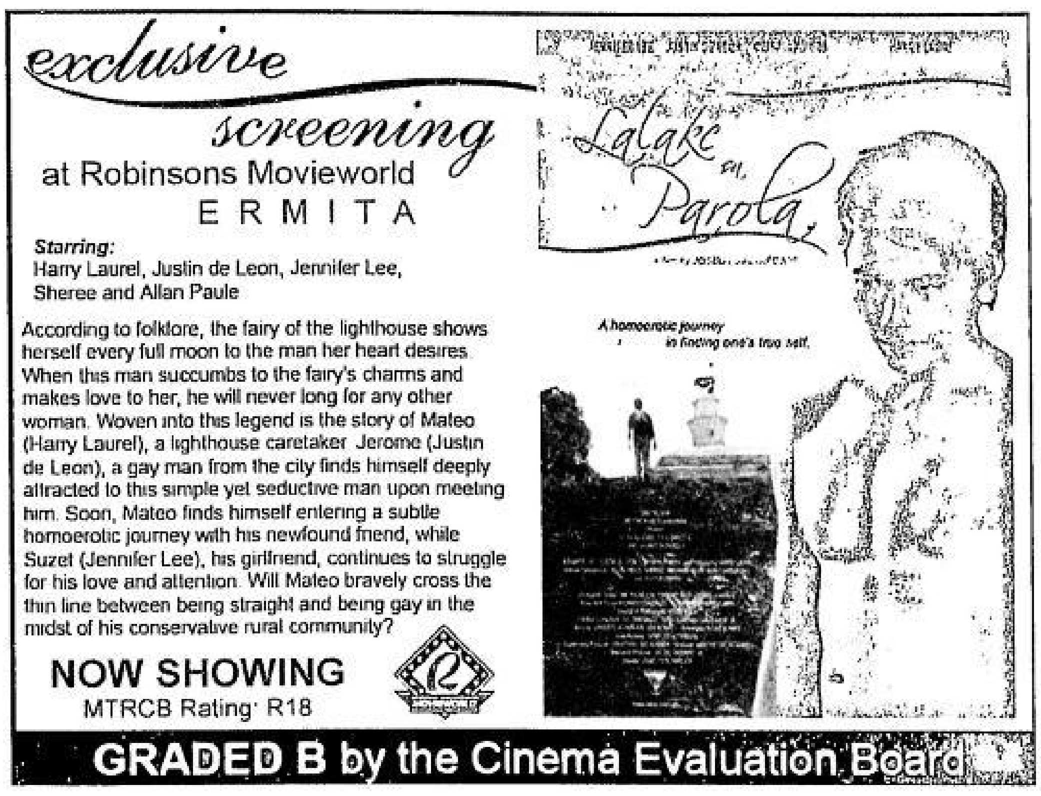
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According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?
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MTRCB Rating: R18
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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	RETRIBUTION 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:40	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 9:20	ONE PERCENT FULL 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	
KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 2:30 / 7:10	NO RESERVATION 12:10 / 4:50 / 9:30	STARDUST 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45

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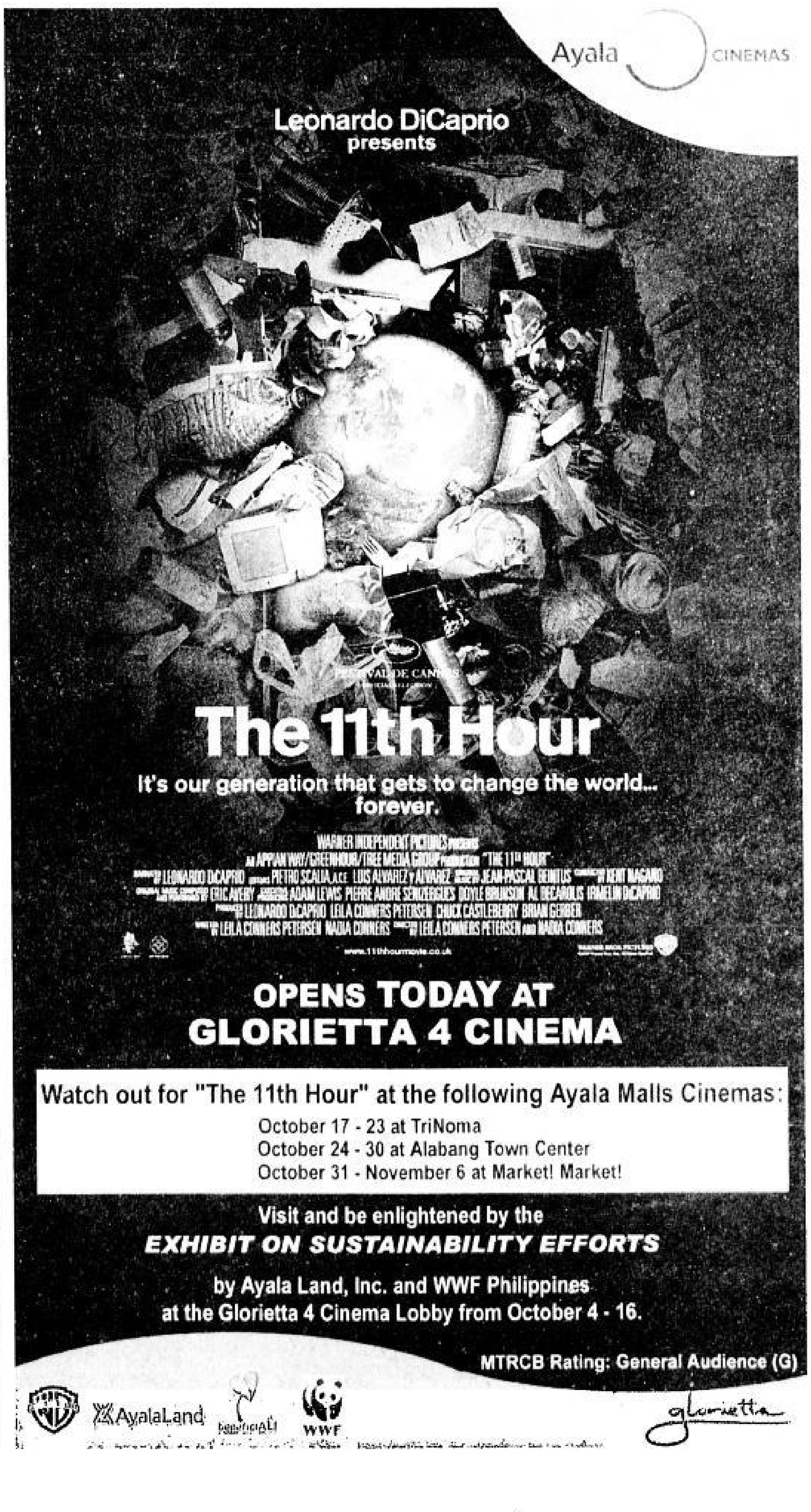
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Mystery behind beauty queen's love child unfolds

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

THE LOUDEST WHISPER LINKING beauty queen **Josephine Canonizado** to a married action star hasn't waned. Is it something the actor is trying to ignore long enough so it will go away? The plot thickens.

My source insists that during the baptismal party of their supposed love child **Chloe** at Manila Polo Club, it was the sister of Josephine who was carrying the baby girl all the time. Until the sis flew back to the US, Chloe stayed with her, perhaps to squelch talk about Josephine's mysterious pregnancy.

A baby is not a thing to be molded but a person to be unfolded. As baby Chloe grows up, will the mystery surrounding her birth continue to unfold as well?

New pair

Angel Locsin and **Sam Milby** team up for the first time in "Maalaala Mo Kaya," which will be aired on Oct 12. She plays a struggling nursing student while he is the spoiled *balikbayan* son of a doctor.

Gel and Sam hit it off instantly. They have chemistry on screen. For sure, it's just the start of many more projects for them together. Who knows? Cupid might just be waiting for Gel and Sam somewhere down the show biz road.

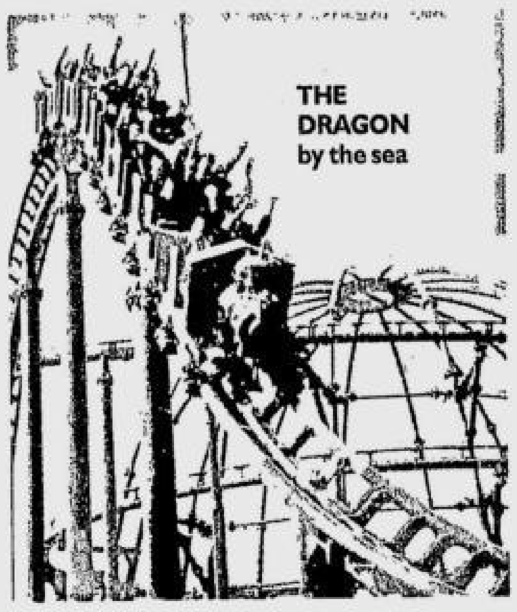
Not the type

Knowing **Keempee de Leon**, he's not the type who would splurge on high-end girlie bars. There's talk circulating that he and **Mark Herras** are often spotted in Pegasus. Kimpoy and I, along with other show biz friends, used to have a "Friday Club."

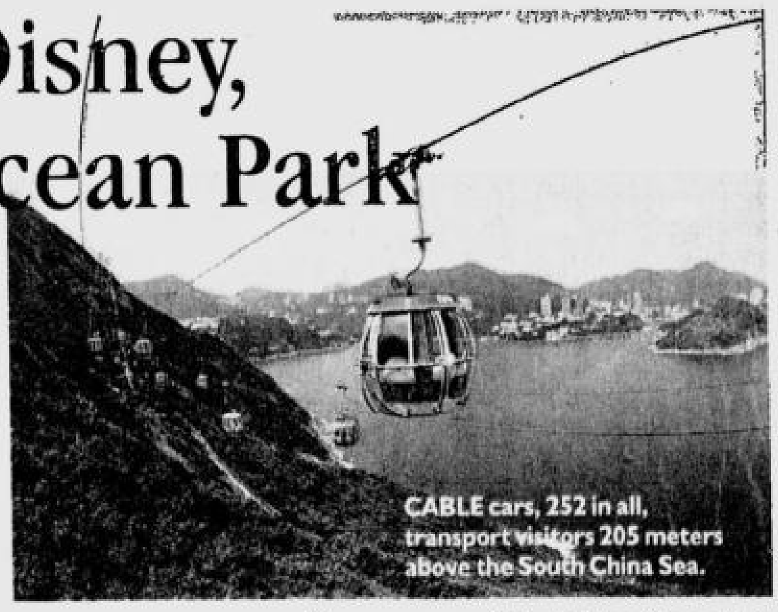
He prefers chilling out at home or in some cozy joint. Besides, with all the

MYSTERY/F3

Before HK Disney, there was Ocean Park



THE DRAGON by the sea



CABLE cars, 252 in all, transport visitors 205 meters above the South China Sea.

HOMEGROWN.

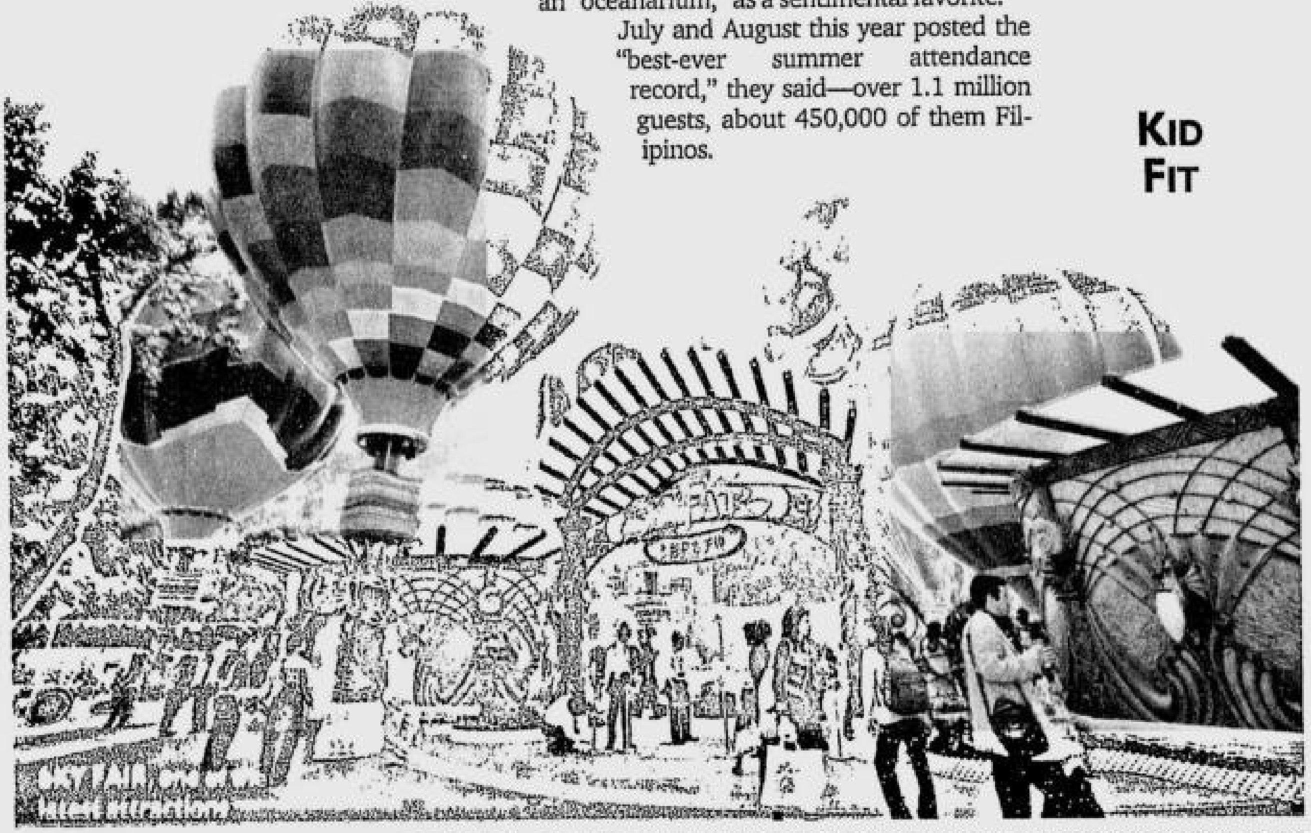
The world's best marine-based theme park. Not competing with Hong Kong Disneyland.

Thus, Tom Mehrmann, chief executive officer, described Hong Kong's Ocean Park. "HK Disney and Ocean Park complement one another." On one hand, animal mascots; on the other, real animals, he said.

Mehrmann, Matthias Li, deputy chief executive and chief financial officer, and Paul Pei, sales and marketing executive director, were in Manila recently to pitch the park, originally an "oceanarium," as a sentimental favorite.

July and August this year posted the "best-ever summer attendance record," they said—over 1.1 million guests, about 450,000 of them Filipinos.

KID FIT



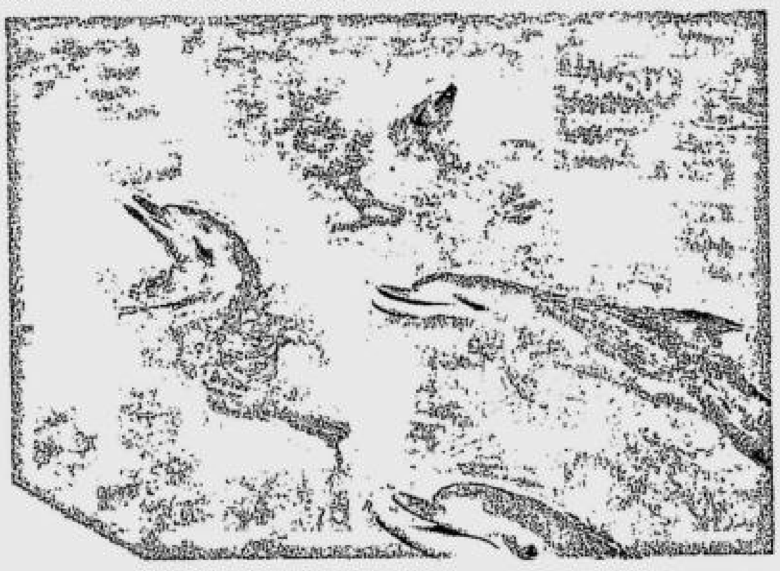
Three years ago, OP established Ocean Park Academy to strengthen its educational aspect. Now it runs tours for schoolchildren and workshops for teachers on six subjects—giant pandas, dolphins, sea lions, birds, fishes and plants.

Mehrmann pointed out: "We're proud to have used our topography (an 870,000 sq m expanse jutting out to the South China Sea) to maximum effect." For example, he said, a ride on The Dragon (roller coaster) feels like being hurled out to the ocean."

In 2005, the year that HK Disney opened, OP underwent major redevelopment, and then again last year, doubling the amount of animal and ride attractions from over 35 to 70. Latest additions include Asia's first standalone sea jelly exhibit with 1,000 varieties, and a helium balloon that take guests up to 120 meters above ground.

The "homegrown" tag works, apparently. In 2006, OP was named "Most Lovable Site in HK" as part of the "My Heart, My Home" competition run by the Home Affairs Bureau. Consumers in China also picked it as the "Most Favorable Brand of the Nation" that same year.

Ocean Park is celebrating its 30th anniversary this entire year. Which makes yet another tag—"The Best Theme Park in Asia" for 2007—this one from Travel Weekly, very timely, indeed.



DOLPHIN Encounter program for students.

AN AN, one of four pandas, in the habitat that was refurbished and reopened this year.

Clooney disses 'Batman'; Martin chides Pops

By the INQUIRER and INQUIRER.net Entertainment Staff

TORONTO—GEORGE CLOONEY, interviewed at the recently concluded Toronto International Film Festival, on how he hated promoting "Batman & Robin" in 1997:

"It was really hard, because I knew it wasn't a very good film, and it makes you a liar, sort of, but you have to, because it's your job to promote a film. I was like, I don't want to tour again for a film that doesn't work on any level." *AP*

Honor roll

A stretch of 53rd Street at Eighth Avenue in New York has been renamed for Broadway and TV star Jerry Orbach (Detective Lennie Briscoe in "Law & Order"), who died in 2004 at age 69.

In Stockholm, The Swedish Post said Saturday it would issue two new stamps in January honoring Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, who died in July at the age of 89.

And in Los Angeles, the American Film Institute, celebrating its 40th anniversary, announced Thursday that Warren Beatty, 70, would be the 36th recipient of its life achievement award. *AP, AFP*

***

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests. (And why were are moved, if we are moved):

- Pops Fernandez on why she revealed in a magazine article all the incidents that led to her breakup with ex-husband Martin Nievera:

"*Siguro ngayon lang ako* ready... Maybe it's better [that people] know exactly... where I'm coming from." (In the thick of preps for a 25th anniversary concert.)

- Martin, on Pops' revelations (Are you seated?):

"It was a shock... because I think I know why Pops is doing this. Pops wants people to believe (to justify?) why she made such a big deal about a misquote of Katrina saying something about the 'monkeys.' I thought the problem was solved but I think what's important [now is] for people to know *kung saan galing yung galit niya. Sa ibang tao, maliit na bagay yun eh. Ginagawa ni* Pops *sa* article *na ito na ipakita sa buong mundo kung bakit nagagalit siya sa akin. Bakit malaking bagay ito sa buhay, sa* memory, *sa puso ni* Pops. There's a place there she doesn't want to go to. And that place is nine years ago (sic). I don't know what good this article has done for her because it has done me no good. I'd like to apologize to... Katrina's family. [Pops] made Katrina [and] the mom of Katrina and the [whole] family look really bad... This is about my personal life... my own happiness. How can I ever go back to marriage after seeing how this one is still not over with Pops? You think *kung masaya si* Pops *sasabihin niya sa akin 'yun*? She's unhappy about something and obviously it's me—nine years ago. Why? Why me? Pick on the tree. Pick on someone else. Not me."

GEORGE Clooney and girlfriend Sarah Larson in Venice

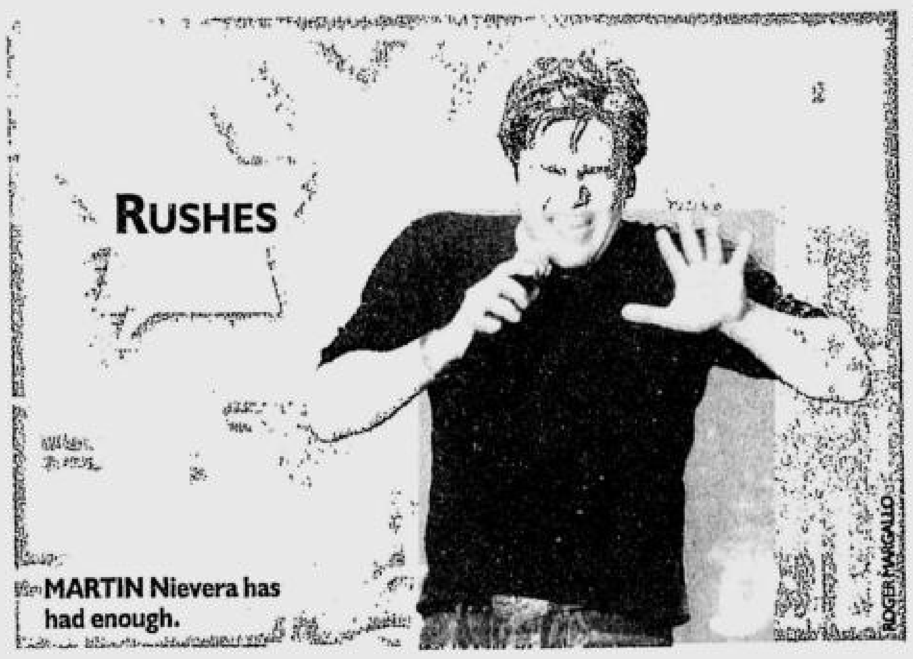
(He continued:) "I told some friends maybe I should come out with a magazine called, 'No!' And in this magazine, it would say, 'No, I didn't do this. No, I didn't do that.' But... *hindi matatapos ito eh*. I'm praying that we could be friends again."

(And continued): "[This is] the first time... I've ever felt naked on stage, on TV, in front of the camera... I feel ugly. I feel like I felt nine years ago. (Ooops, let's not go there, remember?) It's like I'm a winner in disguise because inside *talaga* I'm a loser. That's how this article made me feel."

(And still continued:) "I don't know why we can't seem to fix this. So to Pops, I don't know what to say. Just try to forget about the nine years. I think she's having a hard time... moving on. I know what I did to you was unforgivable but... I'm hoping for the sake of everybody, especially our children, that you'll forgive me for that. I know forgetting is a tall order. I don't know why. Just take it easy and breathe. Enjoy life and all the blessings around you... I'm rooting for you. I don't want to say anymore I love you because everyone knows I do. Maybe I say it too much. Maybe I didn't say it enough before... I'm not leaving. You can't get rid of me. I'm there for you if you need me."

(At the height of the outburst, believe it or not, Martin remembered to plug three concerts—two of his, one of Pops.)

RUSHES



MARTIN Nievera has had enough.

ROGER MARCALLO

Diva, non-diva moments

- Kyla on singing the Philippine National Anthem before the Pacquiao-Barrera match in Las Vegas:

"I wasn't singing as Kyla. I was singing as the Filipino nation. *Hindi ko inisip na gawing* diva moment 'yun." (Good call.)

- Nora Aunor on her family's plans after being acquitted of drug possession charges in Los Angeles:

"*Plano namin na magkikita-kita kami bago mag-Pasko. Sana tuloy-tuloy na ang pagbabalik ng* closeness *namin*."

- Billy Crawford on his fans who trooped to his concert:

"In the beginning of the show, when I heard the screaming... *napaiyak ako nang konti*. I never had this feeling. Never been emotional *sa* show in my entire life, never. Never done this. (Got that.) I can't ask for more. I love being a Filipino."

- Billy on seeing his father in the audience:

"I was so happy to see him. I'm sorry for making you cry, dad. He never cries. And when I saw him cry, I was overwhelmed.."

Yes or no?

- Patrick Garcia asked if Jennylyn Mercado is the love of his life:

"*Siyempre ayaw kong magsalita ng tapos. Malas 'yun eh. Wag muna sanang isipin 'yung* future. *Kumbaga*, take it day by day." (Was that a no?)

- Patrick, asked if there was truth to the rumor that he had used illegal drugs:

"*Depende kung anong klaseng droga*. I've tried marijuana... a long, long time ago. It comes with teenage [curiosity]. But of course... you know, my sister's there, my brother's there, and my dad and mom. I've a lot of good things around me. So basically, I haven't gone through any problems because it was nothing. It was being a teenager. Now I'm a better person." (Was that a yes?)

How to move on

- Kim delos Santos on her new love:

"He's Filipino. [We've been together] for... a year and four months. I think."

- Kim, on the annulment petition filed by estranged husband Dino Guevarra:

"I was happy. It's closure for me and for him. We've both moved on. *Masaya na ako*. When I saw the grounds for annulment (psychological incapacity, marital differences), *sabi ko*, whatever, *matapos na lang*."

- Kim, asked if he has forgiven Dino:

"*Matagal na*. I re-emailed him once *kasi* he e-mailed me saying he was sorry. *Sabi ko*, 'You know what, I've forgiven you a long time *na*.' I'm actually grateful [because life in] America made me a better person. I know now what it feels like to work like a dog. Everything falls into place at the right time."

- Kim on Dino's son Ethan:

"I wanted to see him. *Kasi* I haven't seen him in a while. I haven't even called him. I feel bad, *kasi parang bigla ko na lang binitawan. Ayoko naman, [masabi na]* I'm using the kid to get to Dino. So I literally stopped myself [from seeing him]."

- Kim's message to Ethan:

"Sorry, I wasn't able to take care of you *na. Mahirap anak, eh. Mahirap*. Sorry."

- Kim's message to Dino:

"Sorry *din sa mga pagkukulang ko* as a wife *noon*. And I wish you the best."

(Somebody send a transcript of this interview to Pops and Martin. Quick.)

Ara's mom angry

- Ara Mina's mother, Frances Marie Klenk, on rumors about her daughter and Manny Pacquiao:

KIM DELOS SANTOS

"*Sobrang nasasaktan ako. Parang gusto kong sugurin yung nagsulat eh. Kung sa anak nila gawin yon, ano kaya ang mararamdaman nila?*"

- Frances' message to Manny:

"*Alam ko wala kang relasyon sa anak ko. Sana naman [pagdating mo] ipagtanggol mo 'yung anak ko kasi sirang-sira siya sa tao.*" (*Hindi naman a.*)

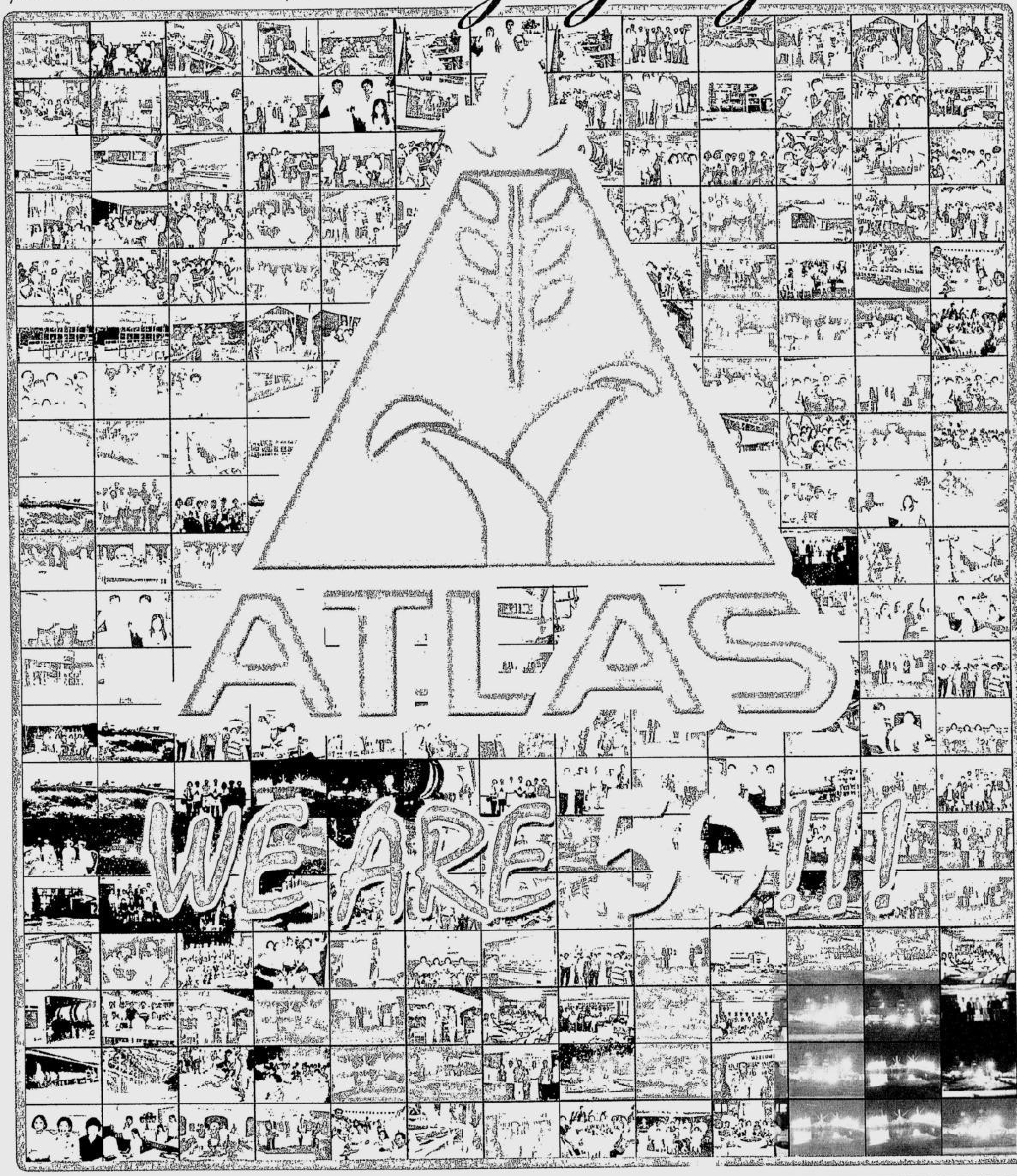
- Ara's statement on the issue:

"*Malinis po ang konsyensya ko na pinaghirapan kong pagtrabahuhan ang mga napupundar ko*. I've been in the business for 15 years—enough *na makaipon na ako. Sana po matapos na ito dahil naaawa na ako sa* mommy *ko na higit na naapektuhan ng mga nangyayari*." (*E di tapusin na ang usapang ito, ha?*)

ATLAS FERTILIZER CORPORATION

THE CROP SPECIFIC - SOIL SPECIFIC FERTILIZER COMPANY

Salamat Sa Inyong Pagtitiwala


ATLAS
WE ARE 50!!!

Perfect Gro
14-14-14 Fertilizer
ATLAS
Super Gro
16-20-0 Fertilizer
ATLAS
"Crop Specific - Soil Specific"
ATLAS
POWER GRO
20-0-0 w/ S, Ca
50 Kg Net
ATLAS
USP
20-10-0 w/ S, Ca
50 Kg. Net
ATLAS
HI-YIELD GRO
17-7-17 w/ S,Ca,Cl
50 Kg. Net
ATLAS
TOP DRESS
17-0-17 w/ S,Ca,Cl
ATLAS
COCO GRO
14-5-20 w/ S,Ca,Cl
50 Kg. Net
ATLAS
12-12-17 w/ S,Mg,Ca,Cl
50 Kg Net
ATLAS
BEST GRO
ATLAS
10-19-20 w/ S,Ca,Mg,B
50 Kg. Net
ATLAS
BASAL
10-10-10 w/ S, Ca, Mg & Cl
50 Kg Net
ATLAS
PREMIUM GRO
6-9-15 w/ S
50 Kg Net
ATLAS
SOLOPHOS
ATLAS
KIESERITE
25% MgO, 10% S
50 Kg. Net
UREA
46-0-0 Fertilizer
ATLAS
"Crop Specific - Soil Specific"
ATLAS
Di Ammonium Phosphate
18-46-0 Fertilizer
ATLAS
Muriate Of Potash
ATLAS

sojitz

WE LEAD... OTHERS FOLLOW...

Messages

Warmest greetings to the officers and employees of the Atlast Fertilizer Corporation (AFC) on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary.

Farming is a major source of livelihood for our countrymen, particularly those living in rural communities. It is for this important reason that I commend you for providing our farmers with useful products that could increase their yields.

For 50 years, the AFC has produced highly effective and environment-friendly fertilizers which have helped our farmers maintain the fertility of their land and increase their yield and their income. Your golden anniversary theme, "Enriching the Soil, Cultivating Life for 50 Years and Beyond," shows your firm resolve to continue your work in improving our agricultural productivity.

More power to you and Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (*Sgd.*)
President
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to the management and staff of Atlas Fertilizer Corp (AFC) as you celebrate your 50th anniversary with theme: "Enriching the Soil, Cultivating Life for 50 Years and Beyond."

The Department of Agriculture family is privileged to have a staunch ally in AFC through five decades and counting in our joint efforts to empower farmers through quality farm inputs and sustainable technologies.

With a wide array of crop-specific inputs, Atlas has indeed served as one of the reliable partners of Filipino farmers in increasing their productivity and incomes, and we expect that it will continue to do so in the succeeding years and beyond.

We therefore look forward to a more robust collaboration with AFC, along with its network of distributors and dealers nationwide, as we carry on enriching the lives of millions of Filipino farmers, their families and other rural folk. Congratulations and more power. Happy Golden Anniversary! Mabuhay ang AFC!

Arthur C. Yap (*Sgd.*)
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Atlas Fertilizer Corp (AFC).

Having worked, over the years, together with AFC as our wholly owned Philippine producer of fertilizers, we at Sojitz Corporation pride ourselves on having been part of the tireless effort for the development of your nation's agricultural sector.

I as president and CEO of Sojitz Corp, which is now the parent company of AFC, would like to take this auspicious occasion to offer our hearty appreciation for the support and cooperation AFC and Sojitz have received over the years from you all as our customers and suppliers, whose representatives are going to us in sharing this memorable day of AFCT's 50th anniversary.

As we recall, our close relationship with AFC goes back to the early 1990s, when we started supplying fertilizer raw materials to AFC. Back in 1995, we made our first capital participation in AFC's equity though our share then was a minor one. Then on the memorable day of July 11, 2001, we finally became the 100 percent shareholder of AFC.

Let me assure you that AFC and Sojitz will join forces for mutual growth in the belief that continued success of our mutual business will facilitate further development of the agricultural industry of the Philippines.

While you may rest assure of our continued support of AFC, I do hope that, with continued support and understanding from you, AFC will have continued success and thereby will contribute to enhancing your country's agriculture in years ahead.

Yutaka Kase (*Sgd.*)
President and CEO
Sojitz Corporation

Warmest greetings on the occasion of Atlas' 50th Anniversary.

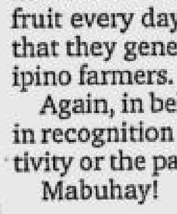
Atlas begun as a pioneer in the fertilizer industry with the objective of significantly contributing to the country's agricultural development by manufacturing quality fertilizers, while strictly abiding by its commitment of profitability with honor and integrity. It has served the Filipino agripreneurs' needs, whether as ordinary farmers, big landholders, agriculture corporations or cooperatives, through its network of distributors nationwide.

Atlas has maintained its pursuit of product excellence coupled with social responsibility. Atlas has developed fertilization technologies that are "crop-specific and soil-specific," creating higher yields and productivity per hectare for the farmers.

On this golden moment, let me take the opportunity to salute all the men and women in the company who have helped propel Atlas to its top niche in the fertilizer industry. Congratulations, too, to its various stakeholders and business partners, both in the private and government sectors.

Mabuhay ang Atlas... ngayon at sa susunod pang limampung taon!

Delfin L. Lazaro (*Sgd.*)
Chairman of the Board
Atlas Fertilizer Corporation



I am greatly honored to be part of the thanksgiving celebration on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Atlas Fertilizer Corp an industry champion in terms of support and complementation of agricultural development and productivity through the introduction of crop and soil specific fertilizer.

It takes a company's commitment and responsibility to tread the uncharted course of producing and introducing to the market a line of customized fertilizer gadgets that are virtually unheard of. While these grades precisely address the specific nutrient needs of crops and complement the correct sustenance the soil may provide, farmers' practice and tradition are not easy to change. Amid the challenge, Atlas opted for innovation and brought technology into play to produce suitable and propitious product lines. These initiatives plainly exemplified Atlas' corporate creed that "its not just innovation, it's dedication."

Let us be one in dedicating our talent and efforts in serving the interest of Philippine agriculture and those whose labors bear fruit every day in the food that we eat and the secondary wealth that they generate in our basically agricultural economy - the Filipino farmers.

Again, in behalf of the FPA we congratulate Atlas Fertilizer Corp in recognition of your company's relevance to agricultural productivity or the past 50 years.

Mabuhay!

Norlito R. Gicana, CESO IV (*Sgd.*)
Executive Director
Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority

Sojitz
ATLAS
TRUSTED SINCE 1957

Atlas Fertilizer Corporati
celebrates 50 years

Making a diffe in the lives of f

Super Gro
ATLAS
TOP DRESS
Perfect Gro
YIELD GRO
ATLAS
USP

EVERY MORNING, AN agronomist from Atlas Fertilizer Corporation rides a motor bike to visit a number of farms and oversee farmers and their crops. About three months ago, he had acquainted himself with these farmers in a farmer's class he conducted that taught the farmers the new technologies in the proper use of fertilizers to lessen farming costs and increase yields per hectare.

Once he arrives in a particular farm, he will engage the farmer in a small talk trying to get feedback as to how the new fertilization technologies have been affecting his crops. The agronomist has given the farmer easy-to-understand brochures detailing fertilization guide for his particular crop and soil.

With his frequent visits to the farm, the Atlas agronomist has seen the progress the farm has been experiencing. Now the farmer is getting happier every harvest season and farmer's family having more income to afford small luxuries in life.

For ten continuous years now, Atlas is the only fertilizer manufacturing and distribution company in the country that has been deploying agronomists and crop experts across the country. Their job is to teach and guide farmers on the proper use of fertilizers to help maximize their farm yields and reduce input costs. In a year, about 50,000 to 70,000 farmers benefit from this program. This is Atlas' contribution to help the country be food self-sufficient.

The Atlas program also includes crop trials by agronomists in coordination with the Product Development Group (PDG), a part of the Atlas organization that is responsible for researches. The PDG's responsibility is to conduct trials by crop and by soil types to determine the most efficient and economical fertilization technology for the farmer.

"We need to educate our farmers for them to know new technologies and fertilization alternatives that will be able to increase yields of their crops," says Raymund Ilustre, president and COO of Atlas.

"The crops that the farmers are now planting are continuously being modified and changed. There are now several varieties of rice that include hybrids and in-breds. We also now have different hybrid corn varieties, vegetables, etc. Each of these improved varieties has their own agronomic requirements and they require specific amounts of nutrients to maximize their yield potentials per hectare. Atlas has developed fertilization technologies that are appropriate to these modern varieties of crops in specific soil types."

Ilustre adds that "these fertilization technologies are backed up with massive researches solely done by Atlas or in collaboration with seed companies, local crop experts, government (Philrice, Corn RDE, various Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers, National Tobacco Administration, Philippine Coconut Authority, Philippine Sugar Research Institute etc.) and foreign (International Rice Research Institute, International Plant Nutrition Institute). The fertilization technology we've used 15 years ago is very different now, so we need to continuously teach the farmers."

Yasuyuki Ogawa (executive vice president of Atlas) says with the proper use of fertilizers, farmers can enjoy bigger yields at reduced costs. He adds that many farmers now face the problem of having "low productive fields" mainly due to no knowledge of modern farming practices and unavailable or difficult to obtain credit facilities. "Right now it's very important to rejuvenate the farming areas with the right farming and fertilization practices to be able to increase food production to support the growing population. The population growth of the Philippines is about two percent a year."

With the environment in mind, the company believes that farming technology that combines the use of both organic fertilizer and inorganic

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

Raymund P. Ilustre (president/CEO)

Yasuyuki Ogawa (executive vice president)

Farmers voice

Remarkable yields

FIFTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD JUANITO MANUEL, AN AWARDED farm leader in Barangay Casili in Llanera, Nueva Ecija has been harvesting per planting season about 7 to 9 metric tons of palay for every hectare of farm he and the farmers in his group tend. As a farm leader, he oversees 50.3 hectares of rice lands that previously only produces about 3.5 tons per hectare. The increase, he says was due to Atlas Fertilizer, which farmers in his group have been using since 2003. In Filipino, Manuel remarks: "The increase in yields is really so remarkable that farmers here are really so happy. I've been into farming for 25 years and it's only now that I've seen this remarkable increase in yields. Atlas Fertilizer Corporation has been sending experts to our farm to teach us new technologies in farming, particularly the proper use of fertilizers. These experts even check the nutrients in the farm soil for us to be able to know the right amount of the different types of fertilizers to use. The good thing about Atlas is that they already have the right combination of fertilizers to use in our type of soil and our particular crops. If you follow the technology they teach, you will surely get the target yields and even more."

ROJECT

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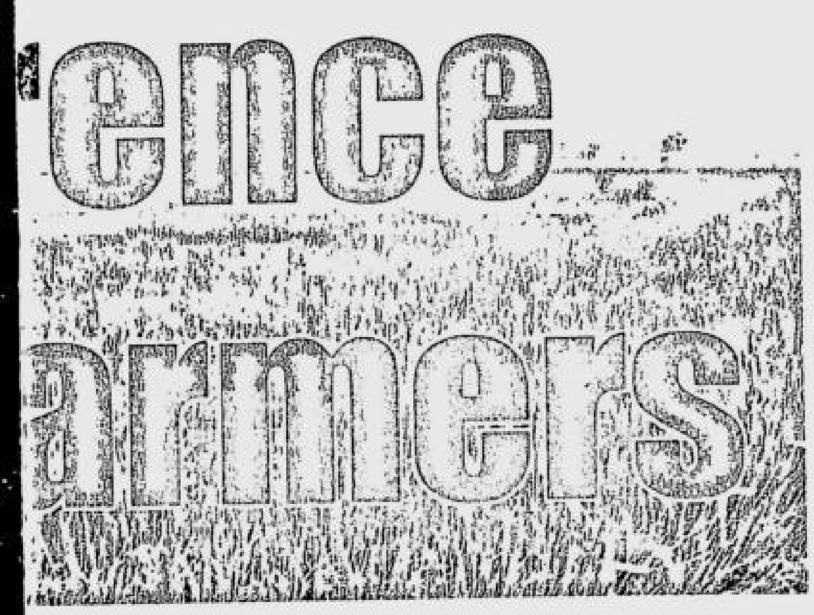
armers



'Atlas is the only fertilizer manufacturing and distribution company in the country that has been deploying agronomists and crop experts across the country'

fertilizer is still the best option. The organic fertilizer helps maintain stability of the soil and the inorganic fertilizer to provide the crops with the necessary and the right amount of nutrients.

According to Ilustre, organic fertilizers help improve soil tilth by improving the waterholding capacity and cation exchange capacity of the soil. This helps in making absorption of nutrients better. However, it is the inorganic fertilizer that provides the necessary and the right amount of nutrients for the crops and soils.

"Aside from the well meaning corporate responsibility that Atlas extends to the farmers, this company has differentiated itself by manufacturing various grades of phosphatic and Nitrogen Potassium (NK) fertilizers and developing appropriate fertilization technologies in line with **its vision of being a crop specific and soil specific fertilizer company**," says Ilustre.

Atlas, which has been in the manufacture and distribution of quality fertilizers for 50 years now, easily controls 40 percent of the phosphatic fertilizer market in the country. Phosphatic fertilizers are inorganic compounds commonly used in rice, corn, sugarcane, tobacco, coffee, watermelon, fruit trees and vegetables, etc. Atlas, has its manufacturing plant in Sangi beach, Toledo City in Cebu. It has the most experienced and technically competent fertilizer manufacturing people in the country. Its engineers have redesigned and developed fertilizer manufacturing processes and facilities that produces fertilizers that are unique and responsive to the needs of farmers. From its wooden port in Sangi, Atlas' logistical machinery uses container vans and tramping vessels delivering fertilizers on a nationwide basis to 36 domestic ports and fertilizers are cleanly stocked in seven (7) rented warehouses and numerous distributors's warehouses. The unionized labor workforce at Sangi shouts out with pride that here has been no disruption in industrial peace for fifty long years. Atlas together with its distributors (plus corresponding dealers) has a massive nationwide distribution system that makes Atlas products available from Claveria, Cagayan to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

With the support of its mother company Sojitz (a Japanese general trading company that has investments in mining and car manufacturing in the country and largest producer of phosphatic fertilizers in Southeast Asia), Atlas will continue to innovate and create new fertilization technologies that will make a difference in the lives of the Filipino farmers.

'Enriching the Soil, Cultivating Life for 50 Years and Beyond'

Big help to farmers

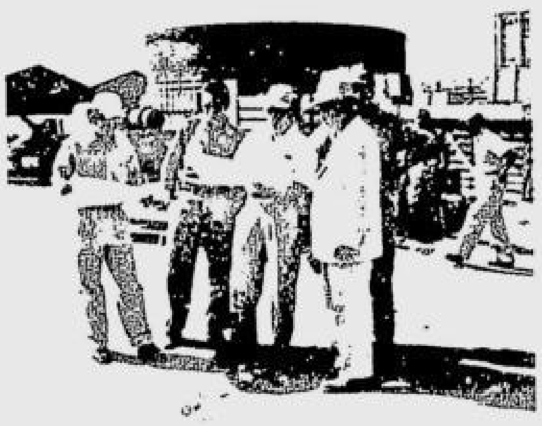
FARM OWNER 54-YEAR-OLD CLARITA A. BUSTARDE TENDS A seven hectare land in Bagong Sikat, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. For the past 10 years she and her husband (a military retiree) have been growing rice and other crops full-time. Since she started using Atlas fertilizers, she has been enjoying increased farm yields. With the increasing income from sale of her farm's produce, she has been able to send her children to good schools. One child now works in Mexico. She has also been able to construct a house and purchase farming tools and implements such as a hand tractor. Gabaldon says in Filipino: "The help that people from Atlas Fertilizer Corporation extends to us is really a big factor why we're enjoying the benefits of our produce. Not only do they provide seminars on how to properly use fertilizers, they also loan their products to us. AFC is the only fertilizer producer who extends such help to farmers." (This special program is under the Partners in Agricultural Rural Transformation (Part) which is jointly supervised by Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice) and the local government of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija . This is just one of the many programs being supported by Atlas Fertilizer Corporation.

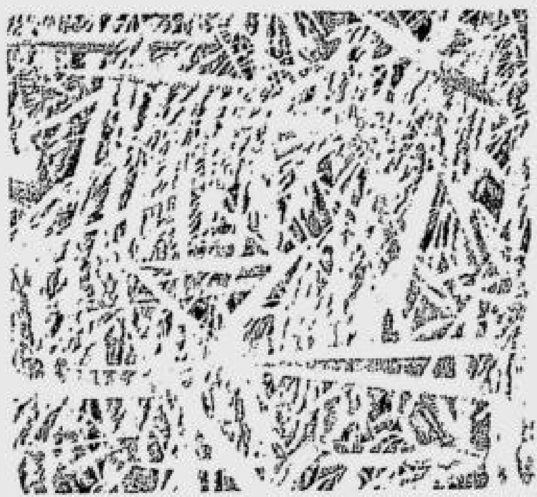
Fifty years of innovation and dedication

In the middle 1950's, Don Andres Soriano conceived the establishment of the first integrated fertilizer complex in the Philippines to make use of the substantial volume of the byproduct pyrite concentrates from Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp (ACMDC) in Toledo, Cebu.

AFC's original complex, which sat on 30 hectares of land, consisted of a Sulfuric Acid Plant, Phosphoric Acid Plant, Single Superphosphate Plant, Triple Superphosphate Plant, Granulated Mixed Fertilizer Plant, Chemical Salts Storage, Bagging Plant and Finished Product Storage, Bagged Fertilizer Storage, and Administration Building and Central Laboratory.

COL. Andres Soriano Sr with engineers during the plant construction (1957).





RICE (using Atlas 17-7-17 and 17-0-17) ready for harvest.

The first shipment of fertilizers (single superphosphate and a low formula mixed fertilizer) were shipped to Manila on Aug. 1958 on board the FS vessel of Coloma Shipping together with live pigs.

The early years (1959-1961)

The company went through birth pains during the first two years of commercial operation. The company's product had to compete with tax exempt foreign fertilizers imported by farmer cooperatives while the raw materials imported by the company were charged the statutory 15 percent tax and 2.5 percent foreign margin fee.

The company had to direct its sales efforts toward the government agency, Agricultural Credit Cooperative and Financing Administration (Accfa). Simultaneously fertilizer dealers were established nationwide. Emphasis was also directed towards farmer's education on the use of fertilizers. Thus, the company hired four retired professional agriculturists from the Bureau of Agricultural Extension Isidro Cayanga and Amador Casas for Luzon, Fernando Torres and Victoriano Rivera for Visayas and Mindanao. Their missions were to recruit distributors and dealers at the provincial and municipal levels, to service the requirement of the recruited dealers, to set up demonstration farms in the use of fertilizers in different crops and to sell Atlas products in areas where there are no dealers.

In 1960, Atlas installed an ammonium sulfophosphate reactor, which enabled the plant to granulate various grade of mixed fertilizers.

Atlas Fertilizer Corporation

Chairmen of the Board and Presidents

YEAR	CHAIRMAN of the BOARD
1957	Col. Andres Soriano Sr.
1958-1961	Gregorio S. Licaros
1962-1964	Ramon A. Diaz
1965	Eugenio Eusebio
1966	Rafael M. Salas
1967-1979	Jose M. Soriano
1980-1981	Andres Soriano Jr.
1982-1999	Eduardo J Soriano
2000-Present	Delfin L. Lazaro

YEAR	PRESIDENT
1957-1964	Col. Andres Soriano Sr.
1965-1979	Jose M Soriano
1980-1981	Cayetano C. Pineda
1982	Juan De Ibazeta
1983-1990	Bonifacio G Villanueva
1991-1993	Eduardo J. Soriano
1994-2002	Antonio M. Kosca, Jr.
2003-Present	Raymund P. Ilustre

Early beginnings

The year 1961 saw the birth of the industrial chemicals business for the company with the exportation of sulfuric acid to Japan.

By June 1961, Republic Act 3050 was enacted. This exempted the domestic fertilizer manufacturers from paying margin fees on the purchase of foreign exchange, custom duties and advance sales tax in the importation of machinery, spare parts, raw materials, fuels and other supplies for a period of five years.

The company was still heavily dependent on Accfa in moving 80 percent of the total sales of fertilizers at prices competitive with fertilizers imported by private business enterprises and farmers cooperatives.

WELCOME
A F C
EXTENSION AGENTS
the ATLAS
Sangi
City

The pioneers extension workers visiting Toledo City in the 1960s. (Courtesy of Andy Cayanga)

The harvest years (1962-1964)

These years manifested growth of the company's net profit. Sales revenues grew steadily at an average rate of 30 percent per year. The volumes sold through Accfa gradually declined as the company-established dealers network gained bigger share of the market.

In 1964, the board of directors approved the expansion of plant facilities which included a second 120 TPD Sulfuric Acid Plant and a 240 TPD Ammonium Sulfate Plant.

Dark clouds of the sixties (1965-1969)

The industry made repeated representations with the Office of the President, Central Bank and Presidential Economic Staff to stop the importation of fertilizers since local production was sufficient to supply the demand. On January 27, 1970, the Monetary Board acted favorably on the request and banned completely the importation of locally produced fertilizer grades.

In 1965, under the tenure of sales manager Alejandro Fernandez, the company pursued an aggressive marketing program. The sales organization was expanded from the original four agriculturists to sixteen full time salesmen covering the whole country together with distributors who have warehouses and trucking facilities.

The decade of opportunities (1970-1979)

The company continued to realize modest profits. Sales revenues grew and fixed assets increased. By 1973, authorized capital was raised to P50 million with corresponding issuance of 20 percent and 33 percent stock dividends.

The creation of the Fertilizer Industry Authority (FIA) in 1973 which oversaw the manufacturing, importation and distribution of fertilizers and the adoption of the socialized food production program of the government provided the local producers of fertilizers the opportunity to sell their products at better margins under the two-tier pricing system for the food crop sectors. The agency was eventually replaced by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).

The industrial chemical business continued to grow due to the development of liquid sulfur dioxide, paper grade aluminum sulfate and refrigerant grade ammonia.

In January 1973, AFC participated and won in the bidding for the supply of 30,000 MT fertilizers (16-16-8) to South Vietnam. AFC delivered only 10,000 MT and the balance of 20,000 MT was suspended to give way to the requirement of the government's rice production program "Masagana 99".

The government placed the fertilizer industry under the socialized pricing scheme, wherein, 60 percent of production was sold to food crops sector and 40 percent to the export crops sector.

In 1976, an Aqua Ammonia Conversion facility was installed for the importation of anhydrous ammonia and set up a small Refrigerant Grade Ammonia Unit.

After two decades of operation, the company has gained a reputation as a stable supplier of high quality fertilizers for agriculture. And to further enhance that image, the company logo was changed in 1978 into a green triangle with an imprint of a plant. Under it was the word Atlas.

FIFTY/ G4

Fifty years of innovation and dedication

From page G3

Hopeful years of the company (1980-1989)

In 1980, the company participated in the Fertilizer Subsidiary Program of the government to spur agricultural productivity. Under the program, FPA set the selling prices of fertilizers at levels lower than the cost of both locally produced and imported materials.

During these times, it was more economical for Atlas to suspend production of the NP-NPK and ammonium sulfate and availed of the duty free imported fertilizers under FPA.

By 1981, the company developed and produced in commercial quantities agricultural grade kieserite and ammonium alum through the Superphosphate Plant and Aluminum Sulfate Plant respectively.

In 1983, Bonifacio Villanueva ascended the presidency. A 5,000 tons per year feed-grade Dicalcium Phosphate Plant became operational and trading of agricultural chemicals/foliar fertilizers under the Atlas brand started.

In 1984, a world class fertilizer manufacturing company entered the domestic market. As anticipated, it became uneconomical and uncompetitive for Atlas to produce the traditional NP-NPK fertilizers from the company's phosphoric acid production.

The company in 1985 embarked on two major diversification projects namely: Agribusiness and Aquaculture.

Starting 1987, the output of the Phosphoric Acid Plant was dedicated to animal feed ingredients and the granulation of fertilizers shifted from the sulfo-ammonium phosphate slurry base into steam granulation using dry feeds (DAP, ammosul, superphosphate and MOP).

Epsom salt and boric acid were also produced and the animal feed ingredient (DCP) plant was expanded to 15,000 tons per year to include tricalcium phosphate (TCP).

The fourth decade (1989-1999)

The position of strength attained by the company over the past three decades was once again severely put to test. At this time, Atlas has three divisions - Chemicals, Aquaculture and Agribusiness Divisions. Despite reaching the P1 billion fertilizer gross revenues mark in 1991, the succeeding years were marked with continuous losses.

In view of the depletion of the operating capital of the Chemicals Division which was used to finance the Aqua Culture and Agribusiness ventures, its profitability was eroded by the soaring interest rates on borrowed operating capital.

In 1991, the Feed Phosphate Plant, Alum Plant, Two Sulfuric Acid plants and the Single Superphosphate plants were mothballed together with the dropping of the agricultural chemicals trading.

Operations were confined to the production of granulated traditional and a few specialty fertilizer grades from the two granulation plants (granulation and compaction plant) at 180,000 metric tons per year.

The year 1992-1993 saw the acquisition of ACMDC pier #1, rationalization of Raw Material and Bagged Product Handling and Conveying Facilities, construction of additional Bulk Storages and Conpak Bagging Unit. The Superphosphate production was also reactivated in 1994. The Compaction Plant was likewise converted into a compaction-granulation system to produce the traditional grades NP-NPK.

The Agribusiness and Aquaculture businesses were drastically toned down by the mid-90s.

In 1994, Antonio M. Kosca, Jr. took over as AFC president, succeeding Eduardo J. Soriano who was still the chairman of the board.

The setting up of farm trials and demonstrations using the new grades on different crops at the barangay levels was started. Crop production specialists were hired as consultants to guide Area managers and agronomists in conducting trials and demos for different crops such as rice, corn, and sugarcane using non-14-14-14/ 16-20-0 fertilizer grades.

A new corporate entity AFC Fertilizer and Chemicals, Inc (AFCI) came to existence in 1995 as a result of the joint venture agreement among Atlas Fertilizer Corporation (AFC), Andres Soriano Corporation (Anscor-majority owner of AFC) and Nissho Iwai Corporation of Japan. Nissho Iwai, a huge trading company (Sogoshosha) injected its financial and technical support. The existing logo came into birth.

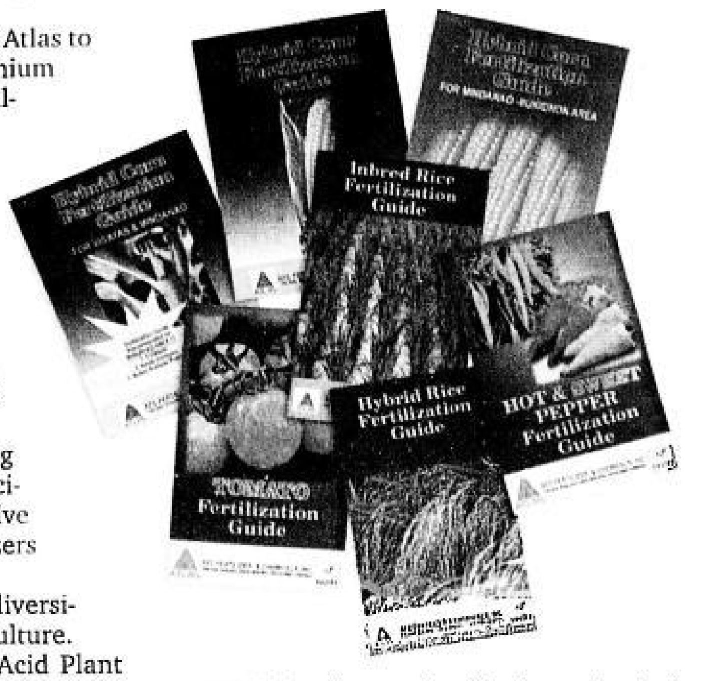
In 1996, a urea-superphosphate reactor was acquired from Grande Paroisse of France for the production of high nitrogen fertilizer grades. Afterwards in 1997, the soil specific-crop specific vision took root despite the fact that Atlas suffered its biggest loss in its corporate history (P679 million). Years then on were very challenging and difficult. In 1998, Anscor started negotiations with Nissho Iwai for the latter's takeover of the company.

Stronger going fifty (2000-2007 onward)

Armed with a new vision and a nagging issue on the company's ownership, AFCI proceeded with its hiring of agronomists to cover the countryside, promoting its new grades like 20-10-0, 17-0-17, 12-12-12, 10-10-20 etc.

The onset of the year 2000 saw a big change in the company's distribution system. Where before, containerization was a byword only for high valued products like processed foods and electronics, AFCI put the fertilizer industry into the containerization trend.

Meantime Anscor's negotiation for Nissho Iwai's 100 percent take over of AFCI was successfully completed on July 11, 2001 thus making AFCI a 100 percent owned subsidiary of Nissho Iwai.


Inbred Rice Fertilization Guide
Hybrid Rice Fertilization Guide
HOT & SWEET PEPPER Fertilization Guide
TOMATO Fertilization Guide
FOR MINDANAO-BUKIDNON AREA

ATLAS brochure on fertilization technologies.

Following the transfer of ownership of the company to Nissho Iwai, the new management formally pushed for the formation of a new organization. It embarked on a companywide separation of all regular employees with the company's option to rehire.

By January 15, 2002, all 376 AFCI employees were separated. At the option of the new management, 329 of them were rehired on Jan. 16, 2002 at reduced salaries and benefits. Raymund P. Ilustre took over the helm as president in 2003.

From April 2002, AFCI invested hundreds of millions of pesos to improve its product quality and further develop new fertilization processes and facilities that will produce new fertilizer grades appropriate to the needs of the farmer.

In 2004, Nissho Iwai and Nichimen Corporation merged and formed a bigger company in Japan--the Sojitz Corporation.

New specialty NPK/NP/NK fertilizer grades continue to be developed with the technical cooperation of various government and private research institutions. By 2004, sales of new grade fertilizers reached more than the one million bag level.

Farm trials and demos anchored on the "Site specific nutrient management" concept were established nationwide in strategic rice and corn producing areas.

The whole objective of the adoption of the concept is to develop fertilization technologies using the new grades that are more appropriate for the soil and crops. It was met with strong resistance but it was also a rewarding experience that farmers slowly accepted the higher yielding fertilization technologies. This vision of being the leading provider of crop-specific and soil-specific fertilization technologies has totally differentiated Atlas from the rest of the industry players.

And with the strong partnership between AFC and its distributors, many of whom belong to the generation of time-tested loyal distributors-dealers, this new direction is bound to give AFC a new market niche in the Philippine fertilizer industry.

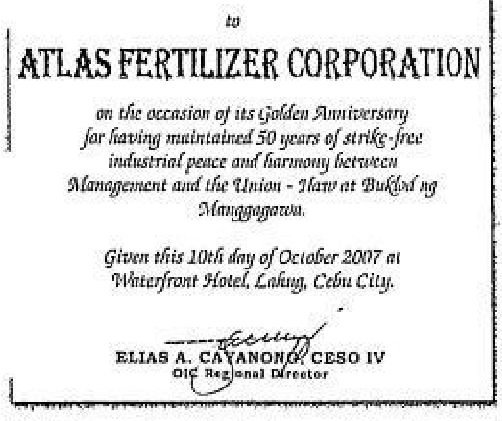
Late 2006, AFCI introduced into the fertilizer market the "tape bag sealing" technology. It's an airtight seal that protects the fertilizer granules from the environment. This innovative alternative to rubberband or straw tying is designed to further preserve the quality of fertilizers. The bag sealing equipment is proudly AFC made and designed for rough or rigid conditions.

In 2007, the board of directors approved the filing of Amended Articles of Incorporation of AFCI with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for a change of corporate name from AFC Fertilizer & Chemicals Inc (AFCI) to Atlas Fertilizer Corporation. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) formally authorized the company to again use the name Atlas Fertilizer Corporation in lieu of AFC Fertilizer & Chemicals Inc effective August 15, 2007.

Trusted since 1957, and true to its vision to be the Crop Specific - Soil Specific fertilizer company, the quixotic dream to better the lives of our Filipino farmers will be paramount with Atlas.

This is Atlas history -- **A legacy of innovation and dedication to Philippine agriculture for five decades and we shall remain steadfast to continue on...**

Editor: Aries Espinosa
Writer: Raquel Gomez
Artist: Alden Cedo



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. VII

Plaque of Recognition

to

ATLAS FERTILIZER CORPORATION

on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary
for having maintained 50 years of strike-free
industrial peace and harmony between
Management and the Union - Ilaw at Buklod ng
Manggagawa.

Given this 10th day of October 2007 at
Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City.

ELIAS A. CAYANONG, CESO IV
OIC Regional Director

THE Department of Labor and Employment has recognized Atlas Fertilizer Corporation's ability to maintain a peaceful 'strike-free' workplace environment for the past 50 years. Achieving such a feat for a manufacturing company makes AFC officials proud of the fact.

EVEN Sojitz people take time out to visit distributors (Masaki Hashikawa, Hiroo Takemoto and Ko Tojima).

IAP Council

ATLAS Sangi Plant employees

DISTRIBUTORS together with Atlas people in distributors conference in Guangzhou, China 2007.

BUSINESS / B1

Peso hits new 7-year high of 44.15 to $1

METRO / A17

After closure of 2 Rizal landfills, MMDA tells Metro residents: Don't throw that garbage

ACROSS / A13

Pampanga's war on 'jueteng' starts via text brigade

NEWS / A2

Lapus blames local gov't units for waste of P329M textbooks

Thursday, October 11, 2007 ★★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 305 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALA… …S VIEWS

Dolphins Puerto's new splashy treat

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—TOUR OPERATORS here are offering a splashy treat in time for the holiday season—a close encounter with wild, frolicking dolphins in the open sea.

Expecting a sharp increase in tourist arrivals toward Christmastime, the city is turning to the playful creatures to add more fun to its already rich fare of ecotourism attractions.

DOLPHINS/ A15

'Manny-la,' no; champ to call on GMA, Atienza

By Allison W. Lopez and TJ Burgonio

MANILA IS "MANNY-LA" NO MORE, AND neither will there be motorcades.

Citing "prior commitments," Filipino boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao will skip a hero's welcome in Manila when he returns home at daybreak today after skillfully demolishing Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera in the United States on Saturday night.

MANNY-LA/ A8

ANG HUSAY UMILAG!

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE FROLICKING KIND: A pair of dolphins (the one on the foreground with a bite wound from a shark) leaps out of the water off Puerto Princesa Bay as if to welcome guests at the launch of the city's Dolphin and Whale Watching, a project of Mayor Edward Hagedorn in time for the holidays. ERNESTO SARMIENTO

'Puno is impeach brains'

Pablo Garcia also says DILG chief to side with GMA vs JDV

By Christian V. Esguerra

A KEY ALLY OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has tagged Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as the mastermind of the "weak" impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia said the complaint was the handiwork of Puno, the President's adviser on political affairs, and the chair of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

"It was their own making," Garcia told the INQUIRER on Tuesday night. "It's from a faction within Kampi."

Kampi, Ms Arroyo's party, is chaired by Puno. Its president is Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte.

The conflict between the two party leaders became pronounced when Puno backed Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s bid for a fifth term at the start of the 14th Congress. Villafuerte fielded his own candidate in the 81-year-old Garcia, who was credited for delivering the crucial votes for Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

Garcia said the Pulido complaint was

PUNO/ A15

One more time: House to probe Ka Bel's bribe rap

By Norman Bordadora

THE P2 MILLION OFFERED TO SOME lawmakers so they would endorse a weak impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was just one more instance of bribery in the House of Representatives. *(See In the Know on Page A6.)*

As in the past, the House leadership has directed the appropriate committees to look into the latest allegation.

Romblon Rep. Eleandro Madrona, chair of the committee on ethics, yesterday said his committee would investigate Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis after Anakpawis Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran delivered a privilege speech on the bribe dangled before him in exchange for his

ONE MORE/ A6

WHERE'S THE EXIT? President Arroyo and Speaker De Venecia appear uncomfortable sitting side by side during the launch of the midterm progress report on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. *(Story on Page A4.)* LYN RILLON

Marcos guards kicked out owners with only their clothes on their backs

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG CAN HAVE HER ARlegui property, but Tarcila Laperal-Mendoza wants just compensation for it.

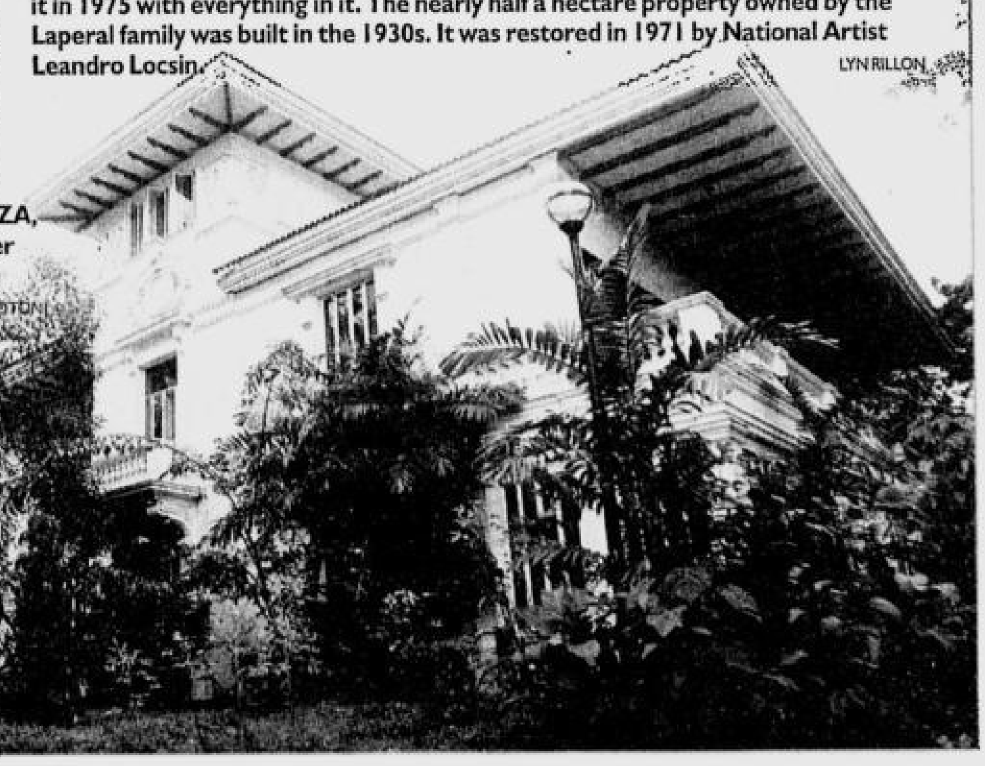
For well over three decades, Mendoza could not forget the day presidential security guards of the Ferdinand Marcos regime stormed her "Blair Mansion" and kicked her and her family out in 1975, with nothing but the clothes on their backs and memories of their house to take with them.

The 93-year-old matriarch thought

MARCOS/ A8

TARCILA LAPERAL-MENDOZA, a doctor, was thrown out of her house in 1975 by the Marcos presidential guards. [illegible]

TWO PRESIDENTS LIVED HERE. But another President, Marcos, forcibly seized it in 1975 with everything in it. The nearly half a hectare property owned by the Laperal family was built in the 1930s. It was restored in 1971 by National Artist Leandro Locsin. LYN RILLON



JDV: Impeach rap aims to remove me, punish my son

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. SEES "a dark conspiracy" and is taking his time deciding what to do with what he called was "a very irresponsible" impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

De Venecia yesterday told the INQUIRER that it would be unwise to immediately refer the complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido to the committee on justice in view of allegations that certain congressmen had been offered between P1 million and P2 million to endorse it.

"It would appear that I, too, was bribed to the tune of P2 million," he said.

De Venecia said the Pulido com-

JDV: IMPEACH/ A15

PCGG chair P10-M advances may lead to his resignation

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Christine O. Avendaño

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALleged failure of Camilo Sabio to account for P10.35 million in cash advances has raised questions on whether it is time for the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to resign.

Yesterday, some PCGG insiders said Sabio should have quit his post "a long time ago."

Sabio "has become a liability," said one insider who declined to be named, following his "latest caper."

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) is investigating

PCGG/ A15

First Malaysian astronaut hosts Eid party in space

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN—MALAYsia's first astronaut blasted off on Wednesday on a voyage into space touted as breaking new boundaries for his Asian nation and for space travel by Muslims.

Malaysia's Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, a 35-year-old orthopedic surgeon, planned to throw an Eid party at the $100-billion International Space Station in between research activities

FIRST MALAYSIAN/ A8

OFW kin tend to just sit back and wait, says poll

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FAMILIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers (OFWs) tend to just sit back and wait for remittances, apparently content with that kind of life, according to results of a survey conducted by Nielsen Media Research (NMR) Philippines.

While the majority of OFW households belong to the lower-income group, most of them prefer not to have other sources of income, Jay G. Bautista, NMR Philippines executive director, yesterday said.

At least 813,000 families benefit from remittances and most of them belong to the DE class, which accounts for 64 percent of the population.

"Two out of [every] three respondents are stay-at-home housewives, who are not working," Bautista said. "Four out of [every] five receive remittances monthly, which on the average is P20,000 or less."

Last year, the remittances amounted to $12.8 billion.

OFW KIN/ A6

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

HALATA TULOY NA MAY TINATAGO!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/10/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2
16 23

FOUR DIGIT
4 5 7 7
(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
8 1 7 | 7 3 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45
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Senators see NBN cover-up

New Neda chief faces contempt for refusing to reveal 'secrets'

ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has shelved the project, senators suspect that there are still secrets that Malacañang wants to hide from the public behind the controversial $329-million national broadband network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Their suspicion was bolstered after Malacañang slammed the door anew on the Senate which wants to look into the records of the meetings of the National Economic and Development Authority where the NBN project was discussed.

Senators yesterday threatened to file contempt charges and detain Neda Director General Augusto Santos for refusing to bare the minutes of the closed-door Neda meetings that led to the approval of the NBN-ZTE deal.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said that if Santos continues to refuse to hand over the Neda records, the Blue Ribbon committee "should not hesitate to enforce our rules to ensure compliance."

"If need be we will cite Neda officials in contempt and have them arrested and detained until they comply," said Pangilinan who noted that the nondisclosure was "unacceptable and violates the right of the people to information."

Sen. Mar Roxas said the executive department has abused its use of executive privilege on "a wide swath of information" most of which do not deserve to be classified as secrets.

"The President herself said that the contract will not push through, so what other secrets are they hiding?" asked Roxas, the co-chair of the Senate hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal.

Roxas said he was disappointed that Santos decided to invoke executive privilege to deny the Senate access to the Neda meeting transcripts because "this marks a sharp change from its cooperative stance during the second Senate hearing on NBN when several Cabinet secretaries showed up in full force."

Based on the Neda records, the senators want to know how the President and economic managers went from advocating a build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) type of project to a state-financed project and why the administration continued to push for a project that was tainted with corruption.

"Something is very wrong in our institutions if graft and corruption is taken as the norm in transactions using the people's money," Roxas said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson called the nondisclosure of Neda minutes as part of a "frantic cover-up."

With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ **GMA PRESSES** Cyber-Ed project /A4

▩ **BID WINNER** wants CHEd to pay up /A4

▩ **COLD** mornings don't mean cold season is here /A7

Local gov'ts blamed for textbook glut

By Jerry E. Esplanada

EDUCATION SECRETARY JESLI A. Lapus pointed to the local government units (LGUs) as the ones to blame for the reported failure of the Department of Education to distribute P329 million worth of textbooks and computer equipment to public schools.

Most of the textbooks reported by the Commission on Audit (COA) in its 2006 report to be gathering molds in various offices were "actually purchased by LGUs from 1999 to 2002," according to the DepEd Secretary.

The COA report also said over P184 million worth of computers and learning software were either missing, defective or underutilized.

During the four-year period, he explained, the department "allowed local procurement of textbooks due to shortages" as well as the "procurement of different titles of books on the same subject per grade or year level."

Lack of coordination

The problems that cropped up were "consequences of (the DepEd's textbook) policy changes," Lapus told the INQUIRER yesterday.

From 1998 to 2001, the DepEd was headed by then Secretary Andrew Gonzalez. The late senator Raul Roco took over the post in 2001-2002.

In a statement, the DepEd explained that "due to the lack of prior coordination with the department, (textbook procurement by LGUs) resulted in the duplication in procurements. Thus, many books ended up in storage rooms of schools and division offices."

"Some (LGUs) even purchased textbooks other than those prescribed by the DepEd," the agency said.

Policy confusion

Other books cited in the COA report were "those marked for disposal after they had used up the five-year book lifespan as stipulated in the new textbook policy guideline."

The DepEd came up with this new policy in July 2004. So textbooks procured before 2002 were marked for disposal and replacement by the DepEd.

"Those books were in storage because the DepEd had yet to finalize the mechanics of disposal which should be based on COA rules," the DepEd continued.

To solve these problems, Vilma Labrador, undersecretary for programs and projects, said DepEd has centralized procurement of textbooks and tightened its content evaluation. To ensure transparency in distribution, they are tapping the participation of nongovernment organizations like the Rotary Club, Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts, Transparency International and the Ateneo School of Government, among others.

"Most of the COA findings have already been satisfactorily addressed by the department (in its Sept. 17 letter to the COA)," asserted the DepEd.

The militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers, however, said otherwise.

"How can the DepEd be entrusted with the $460-million Cyber Education Project when it cannot even manage the most basic logistical tasks, such as the distribution of textbooks?" said ACT chair Antonio Tinio.

Tinio noted "the revelation that a large number of computers acquired by the DepEd are actually not being used by public schools raises serious concerns about their readiness to accept high-tech maintenance information and communications technology projects such as the CEP."

Audit highlights

In its audit report on the DepEd, the COA disclosed that 2.5 million textbooks worth P186.96 million have remained undistributed for reasons ranging from oversupply, deficiency in contents to scarcity of funds and vehicles for delivery.

In Metro Manila alone, COA found more than half a million books worth P42 million that had yet to be issued to students, while about 294,000 instructional materials were still undistributed in Eastern Visayas.

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Trillanes petitions SC to let him go to Senate

JAILED OPPOSITION SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV has asked the Supreme Court to reverse a Makati court decision and allow him to attend Senate sessions and other official functions.

Trillanes, who is in jail on coup d'etat charges in connection with the July 2003 failed coup, also asked the high court to stop the military from preventing him from seeing his Senate staff, resource persons and guests at his detention cell at the Marine Barracks of Fort Bonifacio.

Named respondents in the petition were Makati regional trial court Judge Oscar Pimentel; Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Marine Commandant Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino; Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Adm. Rogelio Calunsag; and Marine Barracks Manila commanding officer Lt. Col. Luciardo Obeña Jr.

In rejecting Trillanes' petition to be allowed to attend Senate sessions, allowed access to media and set up an office in his jail cell, the Makati court said the request was tantamount to asking that Trillanes be given special privileges and preferential treatment.

In his petition, Trillanes said the Makati court's decision not to allow him to attend Senate sessions was inconsistent with its earlier ruling allowing him to run for public office.

He said the ruling was equivalent to "denying the people's will, refusing their choice and overruling their mandate as the country's sovereign."

Trillanes won election to the Senate in the May 2007 elections with about 11 million votes.

Trillanes said he should be given the same treatment as deposed President Joseph Estrada, who was convicted of plunder last month and sentenced to life imprisonment, and Nur Misuari, founder of the Moro National Liberation Front and the former governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

He said Estrada was allowed out to attend social functions, while Misuari was placed under "townhouse arrest" and allowed to go abroad.

His lawyer Reynaldo Robles said that until Sept. 27, his client was allowed to receive visitors and resource persons, including other senators, but the military later banned him from receiving guests, except for close family members, without explanation.

Trillanes said that with the ban on visitors, he is now stopped from fulfilling the few Senate functions that he was able to do.

Leila B. Salaverria

4,100 villages declared 'hotspots'

By Alcuin Papa and Beverly T. Natividad

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS declared about 4,100 barangays, or 10 percent of the country's villages, as "hotspots" in the upcoming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled for Oct. 29, though police expects the polls to be "generally peaceful."

According to the Philippine National Police, most of the areas of immediate concern are in four regions—the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Bicol, East Visayas and Davao—because of the insurgency problem in these areas.

Top PNP and Comelec officials held a command conference at Camp Crame yesterday to iron out security preparations for the elections. The meeting was presided over by PNP Chief Director General Avelino Razon and Acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Borra.

The PNP and the Comelec consider as "hotspots" areas where an outbreak of violence might occur. Hotspots are either election areas of concern (EAC) or election areas of immediate concern (EAIC).

EAIC are cities or municipalities where election-related violence are highly expected to occur.

EACs, on the other hand, are towns and cities where election-related violence are likely to occur or where election-related offenses were committed in previous elections.

Lawyer in traffic killing placed on watchlist

THE LAWYER ACCUSED OF SHOOTING dead two people over a traffic altercation in Pasig City last week has been placed on the immigration watchlist while his case is being tried in court.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said double-homicide suspect Manuel Hernandez Jr., who works at the legal department of the Pasig City Hall, has been restricted from travelling outside the country.

Police reports said Hernandez shot dead Edgardo Canizares, 49, and Katherine Palmero, 27, along Shaw Boulevard at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 2 during a traffic altercation.

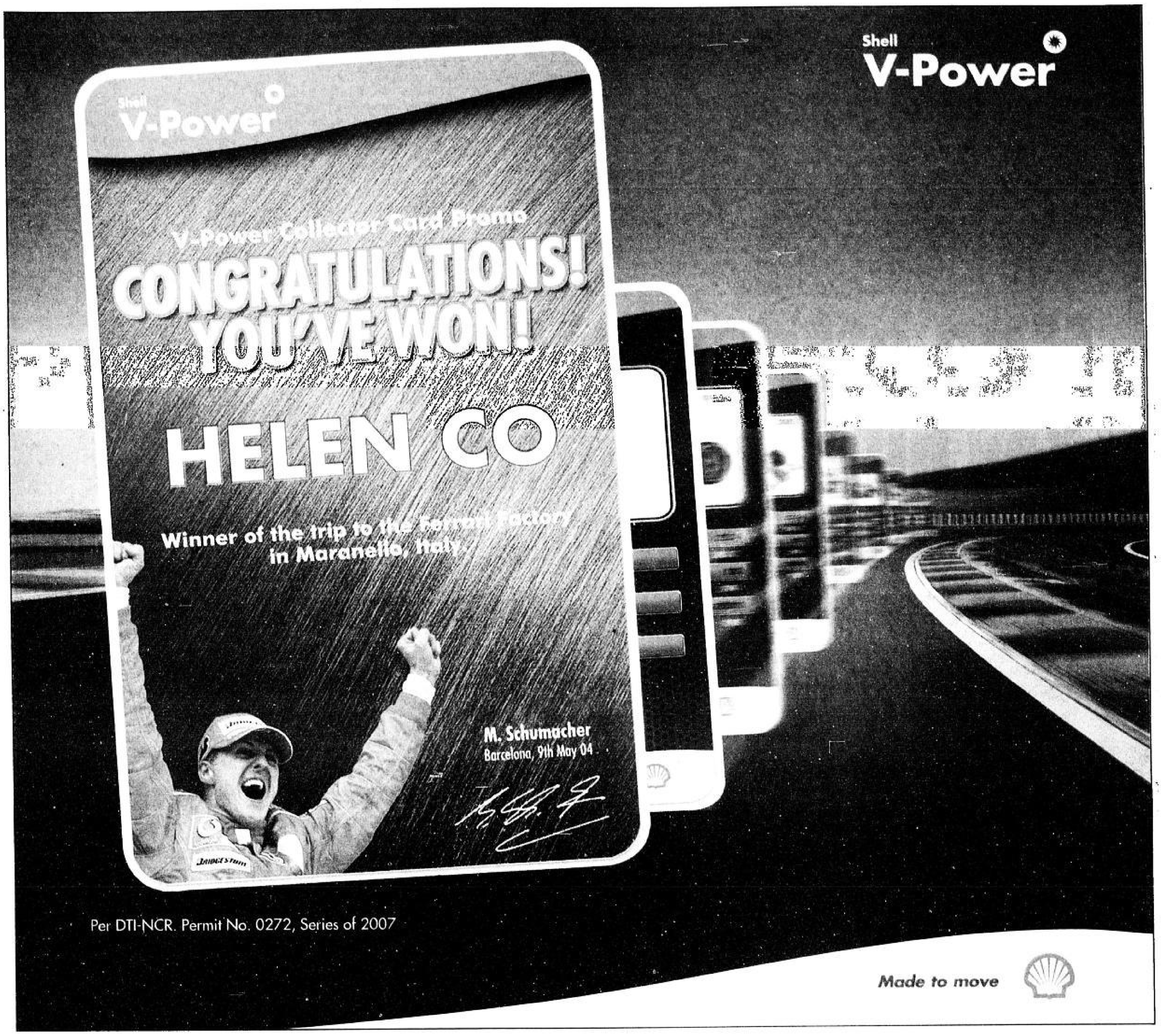
Libanan said Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera ordered him to place the local government lawyer on the watchlist last Oct. 5, the day the Pasig Regional Trial Court allowed him to post P80,000 bail.

"The watchlist order was issued pending issuance by the Pasig court or the Department of Justice of a hold departure order against the accused," Libanan said.

The lawyer was arrested five hours after the shooting at his residence in Barangay Kapitolyo. However, the firearm he supposedly used in shooting the victims was not in his possession and remains missing.

Police officials are also studying the possibility of charging Hernandez for violating the Commission on Elections gun ban.

Margaux C. Ortiz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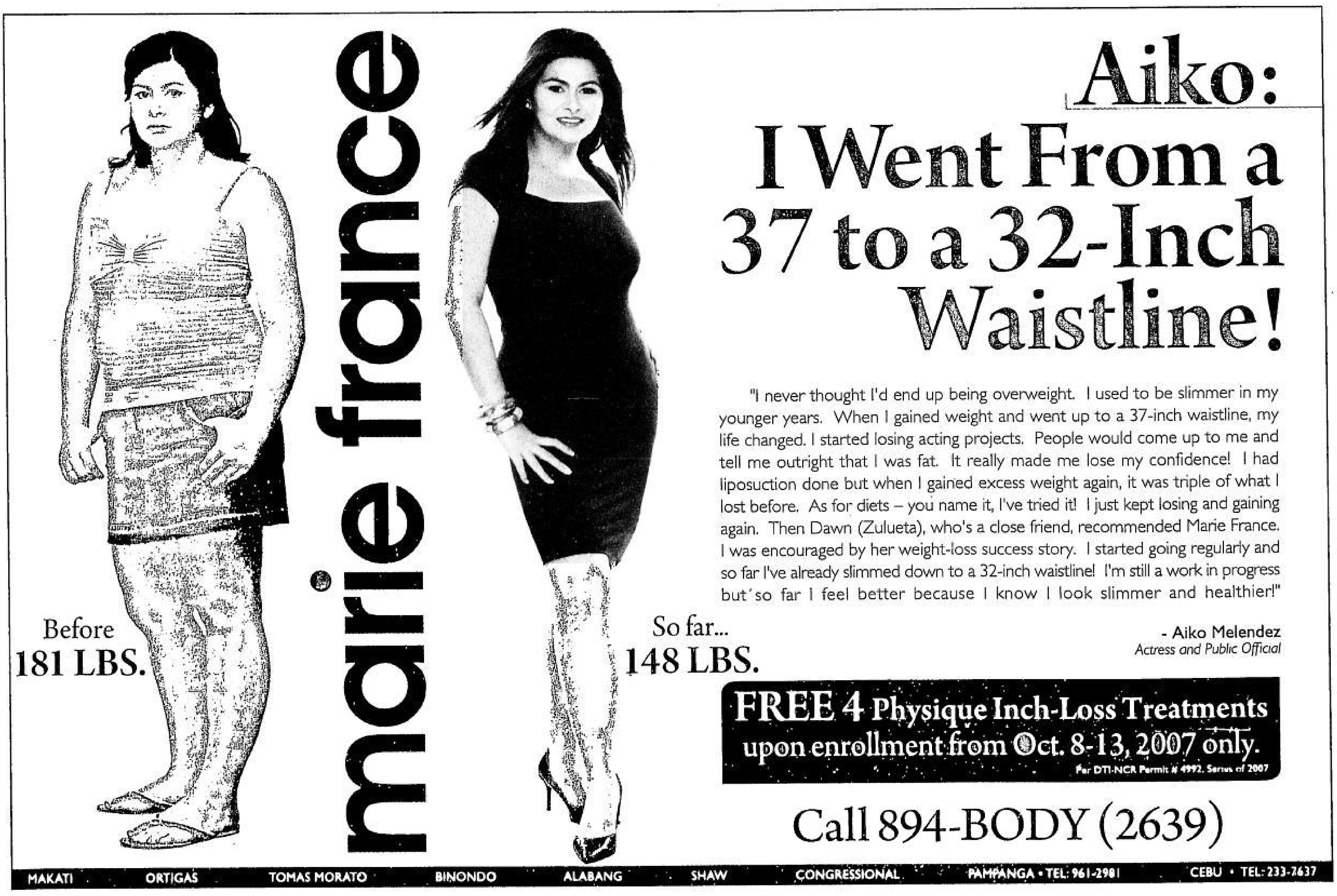
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GMA presses Cyber-Ed project

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday pressed anew for the implementation of the $460-million Cyber Education Project, saying this was an investment that the government should make to reduce poverty in the country.

She said poverty alleviation would be the main focus in the remaining three years of her term and underscored the importance of implementing the Cyber Education Project (CEP.) in providing for better education and a better future to millions of Filipino children.

Only last week, the President announced that she was suspending the CEP in the wake of the controversy caused by allegations of bribery in the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) contract with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp.

The CEP, like the NBN to be funded by concessional loans from the Chinese government, aims to fill up gaps in the education system by using satellite technology to deliver key learning concepts and other educational services to every school in the country through television screens.

No dropouts

In a speech during the launching of the 2007 Millennium Development Goal Report at the Manila Hotel yesterday, the President said she had instructed Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who heads the China Projects Oversight Panel, to ensure that there will be no obstacle to the implementation of the CEP.

"Because we don't want children from faraway provinces to drop out from schools. They should have better schools and they should have better education," Ms Arroyo said.

She said parents should believe that what their children are learning was something they could use when they graduate.

"And that is really the significance of distance learning and cyber education," the President said.

She said the use of satellite technology will help provide an efficient and cost-effective solution to the problem of delivering educational services to public elementary and secondary schools throughout the country.

Linking public schools

The CEP will link public schools in a nationwide network that will be provided with 12 video channels, "wireless wide area networking, local area networking and wireless Internet connectivity."

A total of 37,794 schools, or 90 percent of all public schools nationwide, are projected to be connected to the network in the next three years. These schools will receive live broadcasts featuring lectures and presentations from master teachers as well as course ware on demand and other valuable resource materials.

The CEP is included in the economic cooperation agreement between the Philippines and China signed in June 2006. It is to be undertaken with the help of the Tsinghua University, China's premier technology university and a world pioneer in distance education.

The President said Favila will be consulting with the education task force headed by Fr. Ben Nebres to ensure that the needs of the education sector are met.

Christine O. Avendaño

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Bid winner wants CHEd to pay up

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PAY UP OR FACE CHARGES.

The winning bidder of the controversial P550-million call center laboratory project of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said it was studying what legal options to take against CHEd chair Romulo Neri earlier stopped payments to the firm pending results of an investigation into alleged irregularities in the project.

"We are implementing the project contract to the letter...We are complying with all our contractual obligations with CHEd...the CHEd should also do its part," said Rogelio Peig II, president of e-Global Solutions, the consortium that was awarded the contract.

The Department of Budget and Management released P300 million to CHEd for the project but only P75 million has been paid to e-Global Solutions.

The project, known as the Integrated Multisite Business Outsourcing-Incubation Contact Centers (IMBPO-ICC), is aimed at helping state universities and colleges to set up call center training laboratories.

Rigged bidding

However, CHEd insiders alleged overpricing and irregularities in the bidding of the project, alleging that the bidding was rigged in favor of e-Services Global Solutions, the only firm pre-qualified by the CHEd's bids and awards committee in October 2006.

The BAC head, Julito Vitriolo, has denied the allegations.

Responding to the criticisms, Neri formed a team to investigate the project. The team confirmed the reports of irregularities and Neri said on Tuesday he would forward the team's report to the Commission on Audit for review.

"In the meantime, we will inform [e-Global Solutions] that we will have to suspend payments," Neri said.

Peig said e-Global Solutions has yet to receive any formal communication from the CHEd over allegations that the project was overpriced nor was there an order to stop the construction of the call center laboratories.

The laboratories, now 70 percent complete, are being set up at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Technological University of the Philippines in Manila; Don Mariano Marcos State University in La Union; Tarlac State University; Pangasinan State University, and the Laguna Polytechnic State University.

e-Global Solution sources said the firm would sue for breach of contract and damages.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 11, 2007
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Mal 3:13-20**
Gospel:	**Luke 11:5-13**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to his house in the middle of the night and says: 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived and I have nothing to offer him.' Maybe your friend will answer from inside: 'Don't bother me now; the door is locked and my children and I are in bed, so I can't get up and give you anything.' But I tell you, even though he will not get up and attend to you because you are a friend, yet he will get up because you are a bother to him, and he will give you all you need.

"And so I say to you, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.

"If your child asks for a fish, will you give a snake instead? And if your child asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion? Even you evil people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more then will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those who ask him!"

Commentary

Again the prophet repeats the reasoning of those who have turned from God because they do not find it productive, or it does not let them profit from others' needs. They are proud and call themselves blessed. But God listens and there is a record of everyone—whether they feared the Lord or not; whether they mocked him or were compassionate and just towards others; whether they were wicked in their dealings or not; whether they served God or they refused to. And the day will come when the sun of justice comes with its healing rays for those who were just or burning like an oven for those who were not. How will we face that sun?

Jesus speaks of prayer and of what we ask of God our Father and how we ask—whether we will respond in the middle of the night to people in need, if only to be able to get back to bed. Then how is it with our Father who knows all our needs? Even parents who are not so gracious take care of their children and give them what they need—how much more so with our Father who takes care of all, whether they ask or not. And if we really want to receive from God, then we are to pray for the gift of the Spirit—the first and best gift of God.

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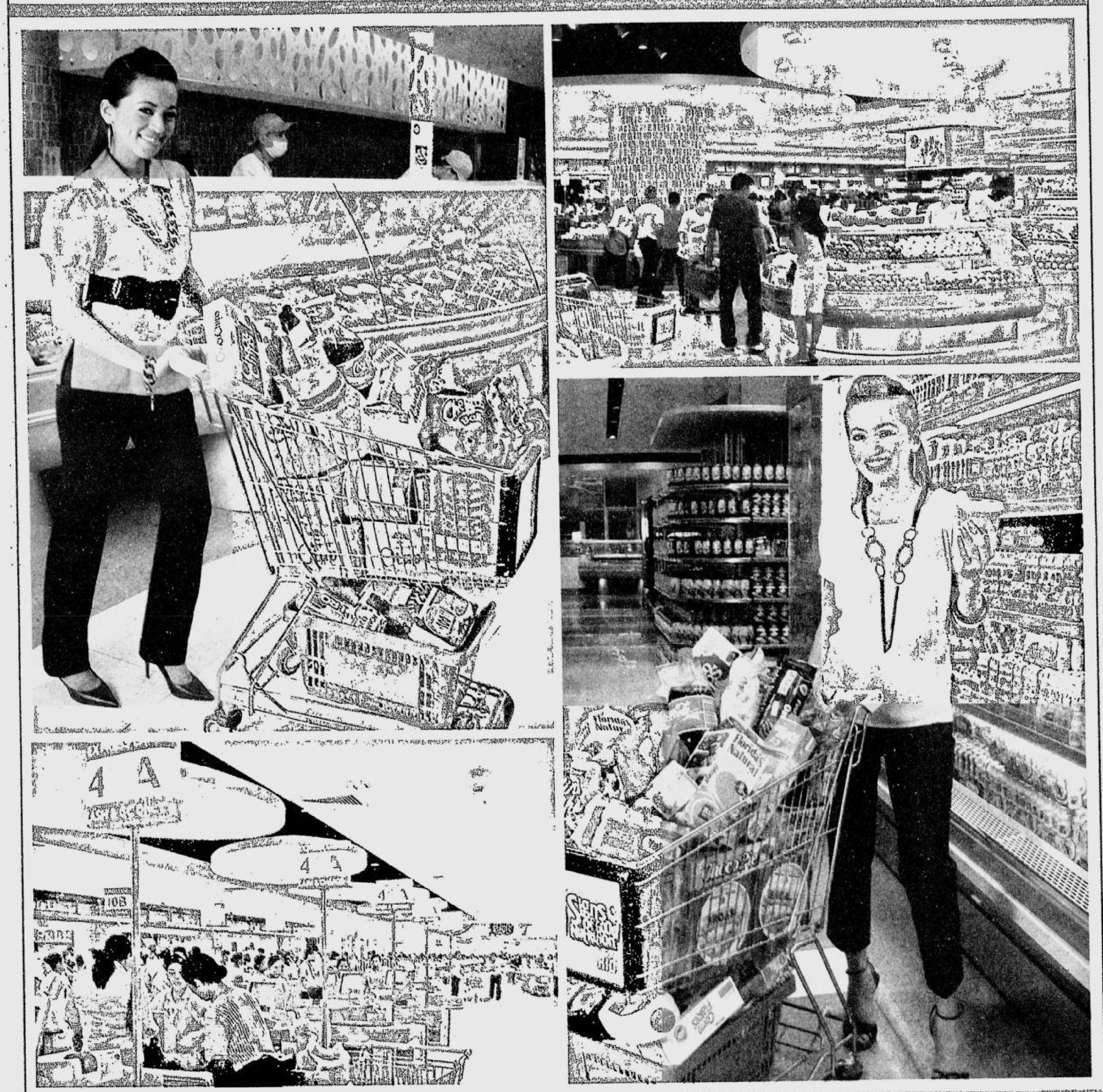

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OPENING SOON

One more time: House to probe Ka Bel's bribe charge

From page A1

signature on the impeachment complaint.

"Congressman Beltran's privilege speech mentioned something about a sham endorsement that was made. With that inclusion in the privilege speech, we may also have to investigate Congressman San Luis," Madrona said at a news forum.

It was San Luis who endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido supposedly meant to immunize the President from a stronger complaint.

Under the law, only one impeachment complaint can be filed against the President in a year.

San Luis said his conscience was clear and that he had nothing to hide.

"I don't even know the name Francis Ver," San Luis said in an interview over the telephone.

Ver is the deputy secretary general of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) who allegedly offered P2 million to Beltran in exchange for his signature on the alleged weak complaint. Kampi is the political party of Ms Arroyo.

"It's a good development that (Beltran) named one person. That's good so that everybody can face each other and so that the truth may come out," San Luis said.

He said he did not receive anything for endorsing Pulido's complaint.

San Luis said that, modesty aside, he had enough means to carry on socio-civic projects in his district even without support from the government.

San Luis said he was willing to work with members of the minority to improve the impeachment complaint that he endorsed.

"If they want to sit down and talk about how to improve the complaint, we're willing to do it just so this will come to fore," San Luis said.

He said he was not part of any conspiracy to immunize President Macapagal-Arroyo from a formidable impeachment complaint.

File superior complaint

Pulido, for his part, said he would withdraw his impeachment complaint if certain parties in the House of Representatives would come up with a more substantial complaint.

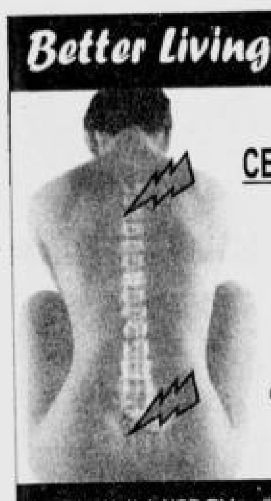
"Critics belittle my complaint as inadequate. Yet, no one has dared to actually file a supposedly superior complaint," Pulido said.

He said he filed the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo on his own accord.

"If it is true that Ver had offered certain sums for this and that congressman to support an impeachment initiative against the President, then I have only two theories. Either Ver was referring to another complaint being readied by someone else or some people simply wanted to use my complaint to make money for themselves, at my expense," Pulido said.

Pulido and San Luis have both denied knowing Ver.

Besides the committee on ethics, the committee on good government chaired by Camiguin Rep. Pedro Romualdo has been tasked by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to look into the alleged bribery.



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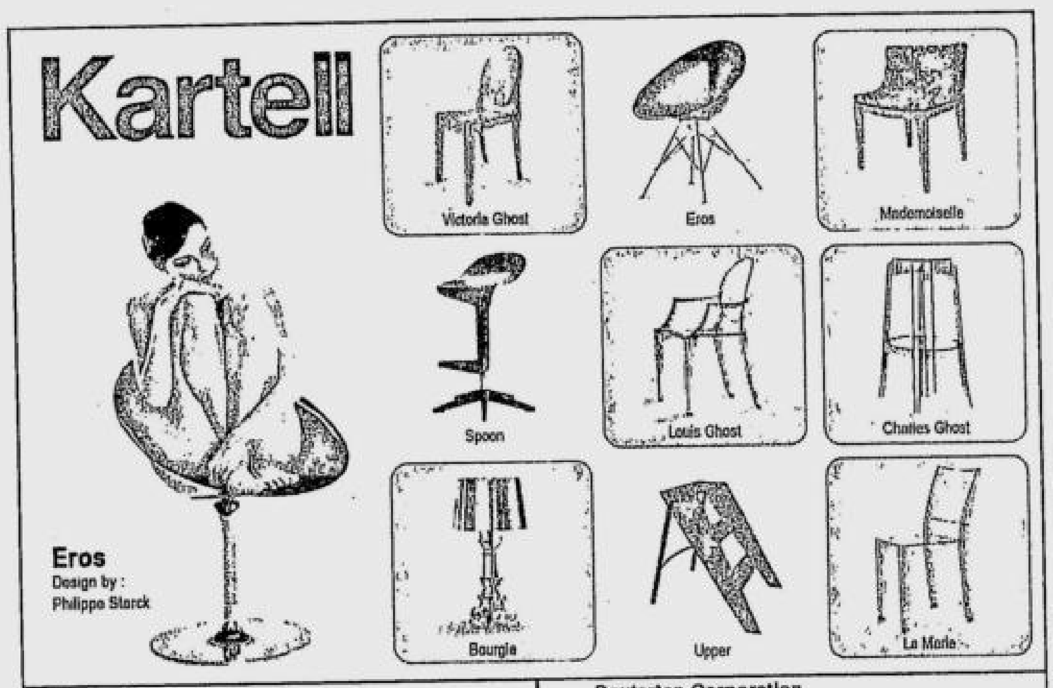

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IN THE KNOW

It's not the first time

ANAKPAWIS REP. CRISPIN Beltran is not the first congressman to expose an alleged bribery attempt in the House of Representatives. Previous exposés, however, had failed to lead to convictions of alleged sources of bribe money.

- **IN JANUARY 1996,** then Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor and Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla told the INQUIRER that they and some members of the committee on public works and highways had been offered P200,000 each to drop their opposition to the P17-billion North Luzon Expressway project.

Defensor and Padilla said the money was offered by people close to then Iloilo Rep. Alberto Lopez, a board member of Benpres Holdings Corp., which owned the firm that won the contract to build the 194-km road from Balintawak, Quezon City, to Sta. Ines, Pampanga.

A number of congressmen said the contract violated a law on joint-venture agreements entered into by the government. Despite this, the House committee on public works and highways cleared the North Luzon Expressway project of any irregularity in March 1996.

Lopez later resigned as a member of the Benpres board. Both he and Benpres denied any wrongdoing.

The Office of the Ombudsman formed a team to look into the bribery attempt, but later admitted the probe could not take off because of lack of witnesses and evidence.

IN AUGUST 1996, the 20-member House committee on ethics unanimously cleared Lopez of bribery charges. Committee chair Emigdio Bondoc said neither Defensor nor Padilla was able to pinpoint Lopez as the source of the alleged bribe money.

- **ON APRIL 16, 2000,** then Sanlakas Rep. Renato Magtubo and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales disclosed at a press conference that they each received P500,000 from the office of then House Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte.

Magtubo and Rosales claimed the money was meant to be a bribe for lawmakers to pass the controversial House Bill No. 8457 or the proposed Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which sought the privatization of National Power Corp.

The bill was approved by the House on April 12, 2000, following 20 hours of debates. Magtubo said he got the bribe money on April 11, while Rosales said she received the money after the House voted on the measure.

Other lawmakers who admitted getting money, however, said that it was not a bribe, but a "bonus" from then Speaker Manuel Villar. Then Cebu Rep. Joy Augustus Young said it was Villar's "usual" practice to give bonuses if a long break would come after a session.

Both Belmonte and Villar denied giving payoffs. Villar assigned then Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas to form a panel to look into the alleged bribery, but Gullas later decided not to form a panel, saying many representatives wanted the House ethics committee to do the job.

The committee held meetings about the bribery issue on May 16 and May 30, 2000. As of December 2000, the ethics committee had yet to schedule another meeting on the issue. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants **not later than 22 October 2007** to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph).

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (Revised September 2007) and proof of Filipino citizenship.

9 October 2007.

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(PDI—October 11, 2007)

OFW kin tend to just sit back ...

From page A1

The survey covered a total of 300 respondents 18 years old and above in Metro Manila and other key urban centers in Luzon, Metro Cebu and Davao City. They were interviewed personally between February and March.

Nielsen said the OFW remittances helped widen the ranks of the middle class in the country.

Some 23 percent of families who have relatives working abroad now belong to the middle class, Bautista told a news conference.

Not in business

By comparison just 11 percent of the Philippine population without relatives working abroad are considered middle class and 84 percent poor.

The survey also found that a big majority of OFW families were not engaged in any business.

"Just almost a third of OFW beneficiaries own a business, which tend to be *sari-sari* stores, renting out apartments, operating public transportation, buying and selling, [running] a meat shop, canteen or eateries," Bautista said.

The 35 percent who said they planned to put up businesses mentioned a *sari-sari* store, Internet café, renting out apartments, canteens or eateries, or "agri-business"—their top five choices.

Pull of spending at malls

Nine out of every 10 respondents said they went to malls, supermarkets and fast-food outlets.

"This could mean that malls are where they receive the remittances, which is an environment where the pull of spending is very high," Bautista said.

He said 61 percent of the respondents received money through banks; 23.6 percent, door-to-door; 18.4 percent, remittance centers; and, 3.6 percent, friends and employment agency.

"As for budgeting, 94.6 percent say the money is for household expenses; 62 percent say it is for education expenses; half say it is for medical costs; and 14 percent say it is for paying the rent," Bautista said.

Asked what they intended to buy or invest in over the next 12 months, 18 percent said they would go for real estate; 11.4 percent said they would buy high-tech gadgets like mobile phones, digital cameras and home video players; and 11.3 percent would buy a vehicle; 10.8 percent wanted household appliances. Only 7 percent mentioned saving some money in the bank.

Father, mother, children

Among families of OFWs, 36 percent have a father abroad, 28.5 percent, a daughter; 17.8 percent, a son; 11.7 percent, a mother; and 12.5 percent, a relative.

Their usual occupations are domestic helper, caregiver, seaman, nurse and factory worker.

Most of the OFWs are in Saudi Arabia, the United States, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates and Japan.

The respondents said their OFW relative had been away for less than a year (22 percent); one to three years (31 percent); four to six years (28 percent); and 10 years or longer (22 percent).

A little more than third (36.2 percent) of the OFWs come home once every two years. Others do so yearly (21.6 percent), twice yearly (10.8 percent) and still others come less often (9.3 percent.)

Migration

Asked about their plans, 27 percent said they hoped to migrate—the choice destinations being North America (seven out of 10), East Asia, Oceania, Europe and Middle East.

"There were 73 percent who said they would stay here," Bautista said. "But this could be an indication that they are content on carrying on with their current lot."

Internet

Only 13 percent of families use the Internet to communicate with the OFWs as most wait for the latter to call through their cell phones or the landline.

Still, families of OFWs are relatively more exposed to different media, reflecting the international orientation of their lifestyles.

Everybody has television sets: four out of every five listen to the radio, read newspapers and own VCD or DVD players; and about a third read magazines and go to the movies.

"We have apprised advertisers and business groups such as franchisers of this and we have urged them to communicate more responsibly with these consumers as well as provide them with more options in sustaining their sources of income," Bautista said. *With a report from AFP*

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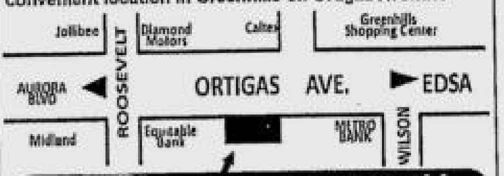

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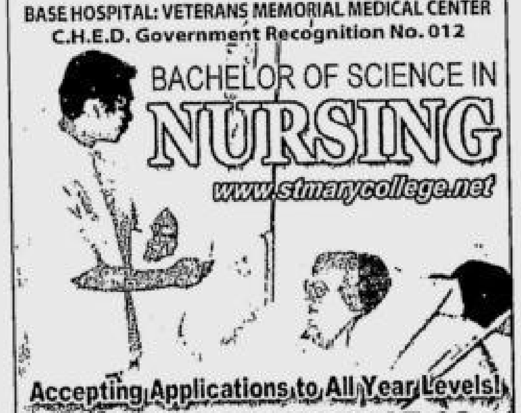

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Cold mornings don't mean cold season is here

COLD MORNINGS HAVE BEEN FELT IN some areas in Metro Manila, but these are not a sign the cold season has kicked in, according to weather forecasters.

The cool weather in the morning in some localities was an offshoot of the storm-associated cloudy weather that prevailed over most parts of the country the past two weeks, the weather bureau said yesterday.

"Sun failed to break through the clouds for two weeks, and as a result, the Earth did not store much heat. That's why we're experiencing cool weather," weather specialist Robert Rivera said.

"We're not experiencing Amihan yet. The cold is coming from the limited isolation that we got in the past two weeks."

Typhoons "Hanna" and "Ineng" brought torrents of rain and a cloudy weather with rainshowers and thunderstorms when they swirled into the country early this month.

Morning temperatures in the metropolis the past few days have hovered between 22 degrees and 25 degrees Celsius the past several days, which is normal.

The country is moving toward the cold season, which is associated with the shift of the winds from southwest monsoon (Habagat) to northeast monsoon (Amihan), according to the bureau.

The northeast monsoon, sweeps down from the plateaus of Asia and the Himalayas, and brings rain and cooler weather to Philippines in the last quarter of the year.

Northeasterly winds from mainland Asia were now prevailing over southern Taiwan and some parts of extreme northern Luzon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"It creeps in every now and then, but it's not prevailing," Rivera said.

Pagasa expects the northeast monsoon, which brings the cold weather associated with the holiday season, to go full-blown next month, and peak in January and February.

Lapus is VP of Unesco conference

EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli A. Lapus has been named vice president of the 34th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) general conference, giving the country a chance to "press forward issues facing Philippine public education to the international agenda."

The conference will be held Oct. 16 to Nov. 3 in the Unesco headquarters in Paris.

"This is an opportunity to give education the focus it rightly deserves before a worldwide organization such as Unesco," according to Lapus.

The Unesco aims to promote international cooperation among its member-states and six associate members in the fields of science, culture, education and communication.

Its efforts are geared toward creating venues for genuine dialogs among its members.

Out of 192 member states, the Philippines has been appointed vice president of this year's general assembly.

As the country's representative, Lapus is tasked to "assist the representative of the presiding country in coordinating the general work of the session."

During the conference, the Philippines will also vie for a seat in the Unesco executive board.

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  October 15 & 17, 2007 M & W 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- EFFECTIVE OFFICE MANAGEMENT FOR SECRETARIES AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS
  October 15 - 26, 2007 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- ADVANCED SUPERVISORY TECHNIQUES
  October 16 - 25, 2007 T-TH 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
  October 16 - 25, 2007 T-TH 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- CUSTOMER INTIMACY
  October 16 & 18, 2007 T-TH 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
  October 20 - November 24, 2007 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
- PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
  October 13 - 27, 2007 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- PERT/CPM
  October 20 - November 17, 2007 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
- SHORT CUT TO EFFECTIVE ENGLISH
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- CORPORATE PLANNING
  October 20 - November 17, 2007 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
- FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR NON-FINANCIAL MANAGERS
  October 20 - November 10, 2007 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- COST ESTIMATION FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
  October 13 - 27, 2007 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL
  October 23, 2007 Tuesday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- TIME AND PRIORITY MANAGEMENT
  October 25, 2007 Thursday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MGRS. & SUPERVISORS
  October 18, 2007 Thursday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- PLANNING, DIRECTING, AND CONTROLLING SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  October 13, 2007 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- CONFIDENCE BUILDING & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
  October 23 & 25, 2007 T-TH 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- CREATIVE SELLING TECHNIQUES
  October 22 - 26, 2007 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
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Notice & Warning

This is to inform the public that an application for the registration of the **VANGUARD** trademark has been filed with the Philippine Intellectual Property Office for wires and cable products under Application Serial No. 4-2007-006141 by Mr. Fernando D. King (our client) with business address at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Only **VANGUARD** wires and cable products sourced from **ATLAS ELECTRICAL AND HARDWARE SUPPLIES,** Cebu City are genuine and have passed local and International standards to ensure public safety and product quality.

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Our client will not hesitate to file criminal and/or civil complaints against these unscrupulous entities and others who shall be found manufacturing and/or importing, selling or distributing counterfeit wires and cables bearing the **VANGUARD** trademarks.

Any information regarding any entity or individual involved in the manufacture, importation sale or distribution of counterfeit **VANGUARD** wires and cables may be relayed to the undersigned attorneys of Fernando D. King. All information will be kept in strict confidence and positive identification of importers and/or infringers will be financially rewarded.

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Marcos guards kicked out owners with only their clot

From page A1

she had gotten justice when the Supreme Court ordered last week that Malacañang return the 4,924.2-square-meter property on Arlegui built in the 1930s, near the Palace compound, to her and compensate her.

The mansion owned by the Laperal family was restored by National Artist Leandro Locsin in 1971.

After it was seized by the Marcos regime, the Arlegui property served as an adjunct of the Office of the President and later as residence of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. It is now occupied by the Office of the Press Secretary.

But Mendoza, now living in the United States, was dismayed by the outcome of her 32-year quest for justice, according to her lawyer Alberto Borbon Reyes II.

Reyes said Mendoza recalled that when the presidential guards kicked them out of their house, they were not allowed to bring anything with them.

He said all the antique furniture, including Mendoza's favorite rocking chair, the priceless paintings and other possessions were left in the house with centralized air-conditioning.

"Everything inside the house, besides the memories. How can you recover that?" Reyes said.

For all the aggravation, the matriarch would receive P20,000 "rent" per month since July 1975, inclusive of a 6-percent interest rate and attorney's fees.

In its ruling, the high tribunal nullified the decision of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Vicente Hidalgo to award Mendoza P1.48 billion in rent and P143.6 million in just compensation, saying the amount was "mind-boggling" and excessive.

The Supreme Court pointed out that the assessed value of the Arlegui property was P2.38 million.

Reyes said Mendoza was informed by phone about the high court ruling after reading about it in the papers on Tuesday and getting a copy of the decision.

"She was dejected," Reyes told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"For us, P7 million is probably a lot of money. But what about all the things that she went through for 32 years? That is simply not enough," he said.

"It is not reasonable. It may even be unconscionable for all the sufferings she went through," the lawyer said.

A US general lived there

The house was called the "Blair Mansion" after an American general occupied it. The matriarch belongs to a landed family which had properties in Mendiola, Manila, and in Baguio City.

Mendoza, then a 60-year-old doctor who also taught at the University of Sto. Tomas, borrowed money from relatives after her family was forced out and purchased a unit at the Ritz Tower in Makati City to live in.

She pursued her fight to reclaim her property through the four administrations after the Marcos regime was overthrown in 1986.

Reyes said Mendoza moved to the United States in 2000. Her husband Perfecto, also a doctor, later died. She has a daughter, Fortunata, several grandchildren and nephews and nieces helping in her fight.

Reyes said Mendoza could not believe that her house was only worth P20,000 a month.

He said Mendoza never had any doubt that she could recover her property.

Unreasonable amount

"She expected to win but not to have this unreasonable amount," Reyes said.

Mendoza, whom Reyes described as still "very lucid" despite her age, would seek a reconsideration of the high court ruling.

"She hopes we can enlighten the Supreme Court, that we can get a reasonable amount," Reyes said.

He said the high tribunal might have overlooked the fact that the property was almost 5,000 square meters, and the mansion itself about 2,000 square meters.

"She was wondering which justice [of the Supreme Court] will rent his own house for P20,000," Reyes quipped.

Assessed value now: P1.7B

While the high tribunal put the property's value at P2.38 million, the two parties have already discussed a possible P600 million settlement before the high court handed down its ruling, providing for the P7-million

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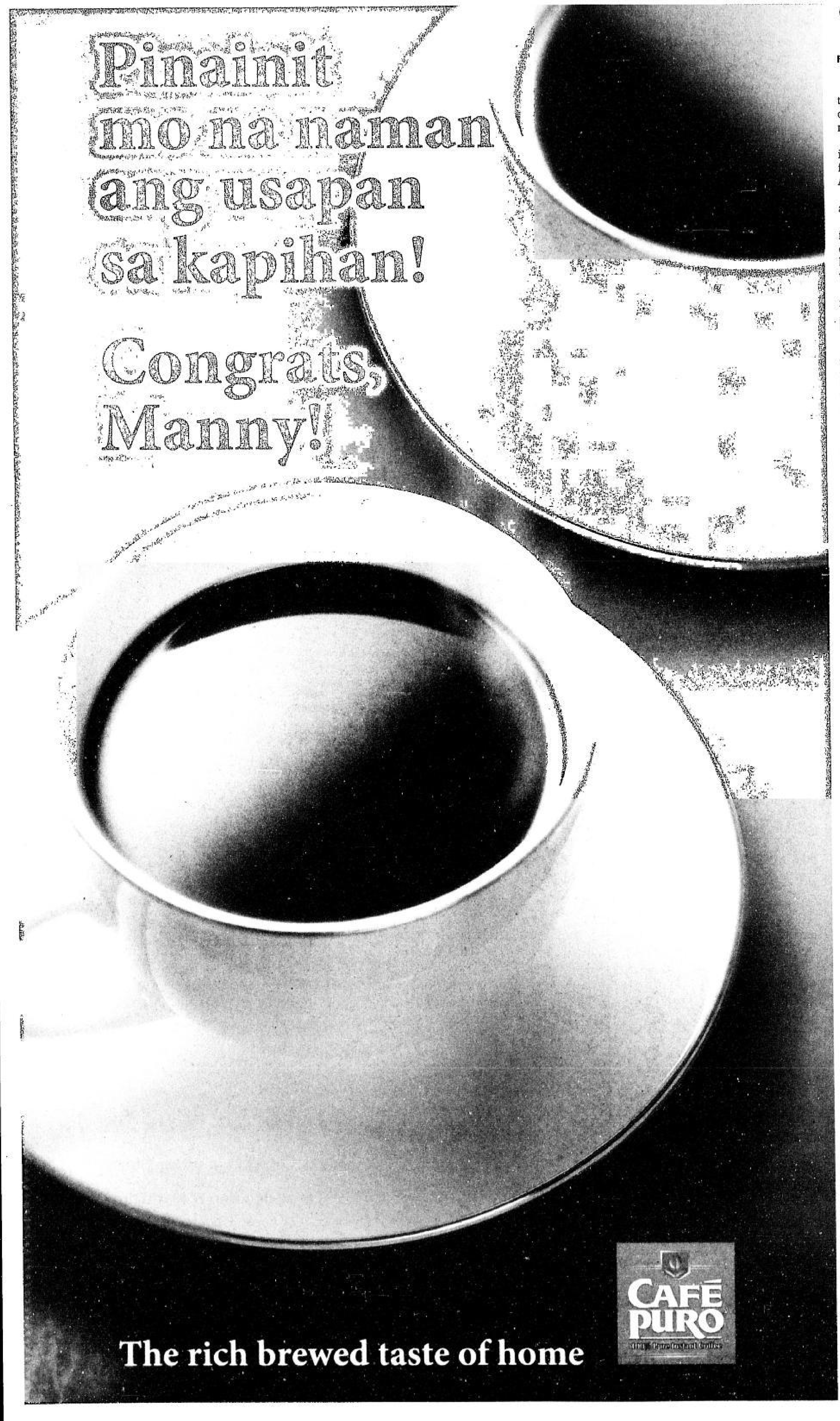
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From page A1

Pacquiao's handlers relayed his decision yesterday to the city government, once ruled by one of his staunchest patrons, Lito Atienza, who is now environment secretary.

"It's disappointing because we have made the initial preparations already for a hero's welcome for him," said Mayor Alfredo Lim, who defeated Atienza's son Ali in the May elections.

"I don't know the reason," Lim said in Filipino at a National Press Club forum.

Pacquiao owes P120,000 in concessionaire's fees to City Hall, which was incurred by his Knockout Bar in Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard. The bar and other business establishments in the area were dismantled shortly after Lim's election win.

The mayor has remained firm that he will not rescind the boxing champion's debt.

Debt of gratitude

Pacquiao, though, seemed inclined to pay a debt of gratitude anew to Atienza, who had seen him rise to his current status. The boxer had given his word to the former mayor to show up exclusively at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office and at Malacañang after the fight with Barrera.

Atienza was at ringside when Pacquiao fought Barrera in Las Vegas, Nevada. He returned to the country yesterday.

On Monday, the DENR confirmed that it would roll out the red carpet for Pacquiao upon his return, the first time it would honor a sports icon.

The boxing idol is expected to arrive at 5:30 a.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Centennial Terminal on a Philippine Airlines Flight PR-103 from Los Angeles. He had earlier been set to come home on Friday.

Airport officials have placed a security detail for Pacquiao and made arrangements for media coverage.

"There won't be any motorcades," Atienza told reporters. "He just wants the usual warmth we give to him, because Manny is one of us."

A red carpet on the DENR lobby and huge streamers on the façade of the newly spruced building, however, awaits the 28-year-old Pacquiao.

Not proper time?

Asked about the cancellation of a planned motorcade in Manila after Pacquiao turned it down, Atienza said: "They probably did not invite him at the proper time."

"The coordination is tight. And no matter how you'd want to invite Manny, he has to make sure his schedule allows it," he added.

The environment secretary said he stopped short of asking Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to organize a motorcade for Pacquiao today to avoid loose political talk.

From the airport, Pacquiao, together with his wife and entourage, is expected to head for New World Hotel in Makati City. After a rest, he will proceed to the DENR office and later to Malacañang.

First Malaysian ast

From page A1

during his 12-day journey.

Space fever gripped Malaysia as millions of Sheikh Muszaphar's compatriots prepared to watch the blastoff live when it was broadcast on three of the Southeast Asian nation's television networks at 1322 GMT (9:21 p.m. in Kuala Lumpur and 11:22 p.m. in Manila).

Sheikh Muszaphar was to lift off from Baikonur cosmodrome in a Russian Soyuz rocket with Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and US astronaut Peggy Whitson. The 50-meter rocket adorned with the US, Malaysian and Russian flags was earlier raised into position at an arid stretch of the Kazakh steppe dotted with camels and the paraphernalia of 50 years of space flight.

Malaysian newspapers on Wednesday devoted several pages and published special pullouts about the mission, which coincides with the last days of Ramadan, the holy month when Muslims fast from dawn until sundown.

The 35-year-old Sheikh Muszaphar has brought with him some Malaysian *satay* (skewers of spicy meat chunks), banana rolls, fermented soybean cakes and ginger jelly. He plans to hand out the vacuum-packed Malaysian food to others on board the space station on Saturday to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan.

Sheikh Muszaphar wrote in his Web journal on Tuesday that he "definitely would be praying and fasting in space," even though Malaysian clerics

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hes on their backs

ısation for Mendoza.

property's assessed value now billion, according to the Asian ıal Company Inc.—a company upon by the family and the so- general to look into its current

s said Mendoza was no longer ıed in returning to her house, larly with its state of disrepair glect.

s said he saw how the old glory nansion had been lost, with the ately rooms now turned into a use and the swimming pool ith filth.

mansion is now dilapidated. It ıt be right for the Office of the ecretary to return it to her in ıte. Even an apartment owner that his property be restored iginal form," he said.

s said Mendoza felt that the P7 would not be enough to repair the mansion. Besides, he said the high court ruling did not put a deadline for Malacañang to vacate the property.

"She thinks that she might be dead when they will return it to her," he said.

Too close to Palace

Reyes said the neighborhood is also not an ideal place for Mendoza to live in.

"It may be impractical for her to return to her house. She's 93 years old and it may not be healthy for her to live in a neighborhood where you will be faced with tanks and soldiers. It may be a secured environment but when they bomb Malacañang, you will be bombed too," he said.

Besides, he said Mendoza was aware that her property had acquired a historical value with two Presidents calling it home.

"Her position is that the government can have her property because of its historical value," Reyes said.

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Earlier, Lim offered to host Pacquiao at City Hall and ordered his officials to arrange a motorcade for him around the city, as was done previously by his predecessor, Atienza.

'Maybe, on next fight'

In a text message, the boxer's business manager, Eric Pineda, yesterday confirmed to city administrator Jesus Mari Marzan that the champion had "prior commitments" and could not grace the event.

"Maybe we can do it on his next fight," the message read.

Marzan said he immediately placed an overseas call to Pineda to confirm the message, but the official received the same reply that Pacquiao's "welcome party" had been arranged a month ago.

"There will be no more preparations, because it's all centered on Manny. If he's not coming, then there's no need to plan (a hero's welcome) ... We have to respect their wishes," Lim said.

The mayor said he was not blaming the ring superstar, but expressed sadness that Manila residents would not be able to see him this time.

Despite the rejection, Lim said banners and streamers would still be put up in strategic places in the city, including the whole stretch of Roxas Boulevard, to congratulate Pacquiao for his victory.

He said his offer to host Pacquiao would still remain. "As long as they want it, we are here all the time to give a warm welcome. It's because of the honor he carries, for the nation and our people," he said in Filipino.

Giddy with excitement

Yesterday, DENR employees were giddy with excitement about Pacquiao's courtesy call on Atienza. They were preparing to shower him with confetti.

Atienza said "this has been the tradition at Manila City Hall in almost eight years. He'd come to City Hall before anything else to get a warm reception from the very appreciative City Hall employees."

Pacquiao himself has made it a point to visit Atienza, whom he looks up to as a father figure, before and after a fight.

"This is a personal thing between my family and his family. The most natural thing for him is to come home, and he will motor here," said the environment secretary, who became close to Pacquiao through his son Ali in the late 1990s.

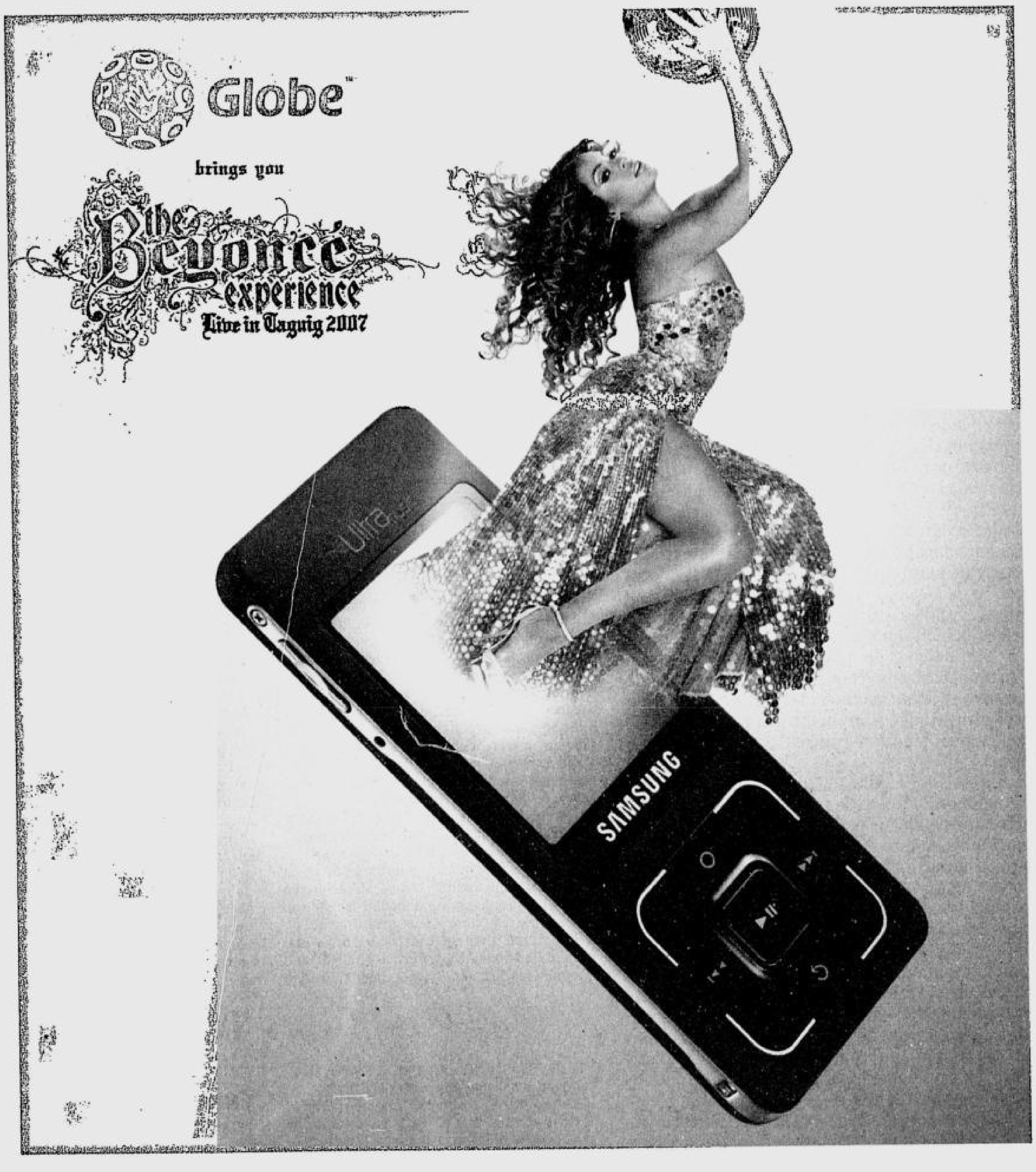
"Win or lose, he comes to us to talk about his fight. ... He'll talk about his fight and the treacherous blow that he got from Barrera," said Atienza.

From the DENR, Atienza will accompany Pacquiao to Malacañang.

The bout with Barrera was "very critical" because Pacquiao wanted a second conquest and a rebound from a stinging loss in the May 14 congressional elections in South Cotabato, according to Atienza.

"Defeating Barrera started him on the path of stardom. It was a question of supremacy," Atienza said. "After his frustrated experimentation in politics, deep within him, he wanted to win."

With a report from Tarra Quismundo



ronaut hosts . . .

have decreed he may be excused from fasting.

Praying 80 times in 24 hours

Malaysian religious authorities have prepared guidelines adapting religious rules to life on the space station, which circles the Earth 16 times per calendar day, meaning that without special dispensation Sheikh Muszaphar would be obliged to pray 80 times in 24 hours.

The guidelines say that the astronaut need only pray five times a day and that the times should follow the location of the spacecraft's launch.

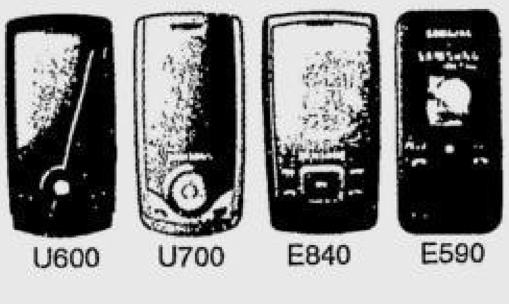
Islam also requires that the Muslim astronaut face Mecca for prayer—a direction that will change as the craft orbits the Earth—but clerics decided that the exact location matters only for the start of the ritual.

"Going to space is a small step for me, but it's definitely a giant leap for all the Malaysian people and I hope to be the eyes and the ears of all the Malaysian people and come back and share all my experiences," Sheikh Muszaphar said.

Malaysian officials have described the first ever space flight by a Malaysian as a milestone for their country, which is marking 50 years of independence.

"I am very happy that our man has been chosen to join this special mission into space ... I hope he will do well," said Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has cancelled plans for a trip to Baikonur. He will instead follow events on a giant television screen in the Malaysian capital.

Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters



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Sun sets on Jpepa

EDITORIAL

TO THE UNTRAINED EYE OR THE UNSUSPECTING mind, the scrupulously measured language of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement seems neutral enough. The first provision of Article 96, for instance, seems fair on its face: "Each Party shall accord to investors of the other Party that have suffered loss or damage relating to their investments ... due to armed conflict or state of emergency such as revolution, insurrection, civil disturbance or any other similar event ... treatment ... that is no less favorable than the most favorable treatment which it accords to any investors."

It takes a lawyer like former University of the Philippines College of Law dean Merlin Magallona to see through the balanced blandness. This article and another one related to it, Article 98, mean the Philippines agrees to serve as a guarantor of Japanese investments against the risk of civil disturbances and the like. "This would make the Philippines liable for acts of private individuals," Magallona told the Senate foreign relations committee the other day. "This is a remarkable abdication of our sovereign prerogative. We should be responsible only by reasons of our own sovereign acts, not those by private persons."

Come to think of it, what is the probability that Philippine investments in Tokyo will be lost because of, say, an insurrection in Japan?

Magallona and another, even more eminent lawyer, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano, presented separate legal studies they had prepared on the controversial Jpepa before the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. (Feliciano's paper was read by another lawyer.) Feliciano, perhaps the country's foremost expert on international law, said the Jpepa was marked by "serious constitutional problems." He pointed to several instances, including Annex 7 of the agreement, which lists what is called the schedule of reservations. That listing of exceptions is fatally incomplete, Feliciano said.

"This omission in the Philippine Schedule to Part 1 of Annex 7 means that, should Jpepa come into legal effect, Japanese investors would be entitled to own more than 40 percent of a public utility enterprise in the Philippines under the Jpepa. This result would be in direct contravention of our Constitution."

When that happens, the Philippines can refuse to allow it, precisely on constitutional grounds. When it does so, however, "such denial would ... be a breach of our treaty obligations ... and generate ... probable liability for damages before an international judicial or arbitral forum."

Those who defend the agreement by reassuring the public that unconstitutional arrangements would be disallowed anyway fail to mention that, by allowing the possibility of such arrangements in the first place, the Philippine government has already acted against its own best interests.

But if the omissions in the Philippine schedule of reservations in Annex 7 are an instance of a contracting party tying one hand behind its back, the stipulations in Article 94 (again, innocuous to the non-legal eye) give us an example of a contracting party tying itself to a corner, and on its own initiative. These provisions prevent Congress from passing laws in the future that may run counter to the Jpepa, Feliciano said.

Santiago is a key ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo and a supporter of key administration measures. But she is also a lawyer, and her respect for Feliciano is boundless. ("In my personal view, when Justice Feliciano says something, that is no longer debatable," she said. Feliciano's opinion "is simply [on] the level of the supernatural—when he says something, there is almost nothing that you can say against it.")

The impact the position papers of Feliciano and Magallona had on the committee members seems to have sealed the fate of the agreement.

Much of the controversy over the Jpepa involves the possibility of toxic waste dumping, the tighter rather than looser access to the Japanese market for Filipino nurses, the government's lack of transparency. It was necessary to debate these issues, but the other day Santiago drew the Jpepa bottom line with great precision: "That is the most fundamental priority of all these hearings: Is it constitutional or not?"

It isn't.

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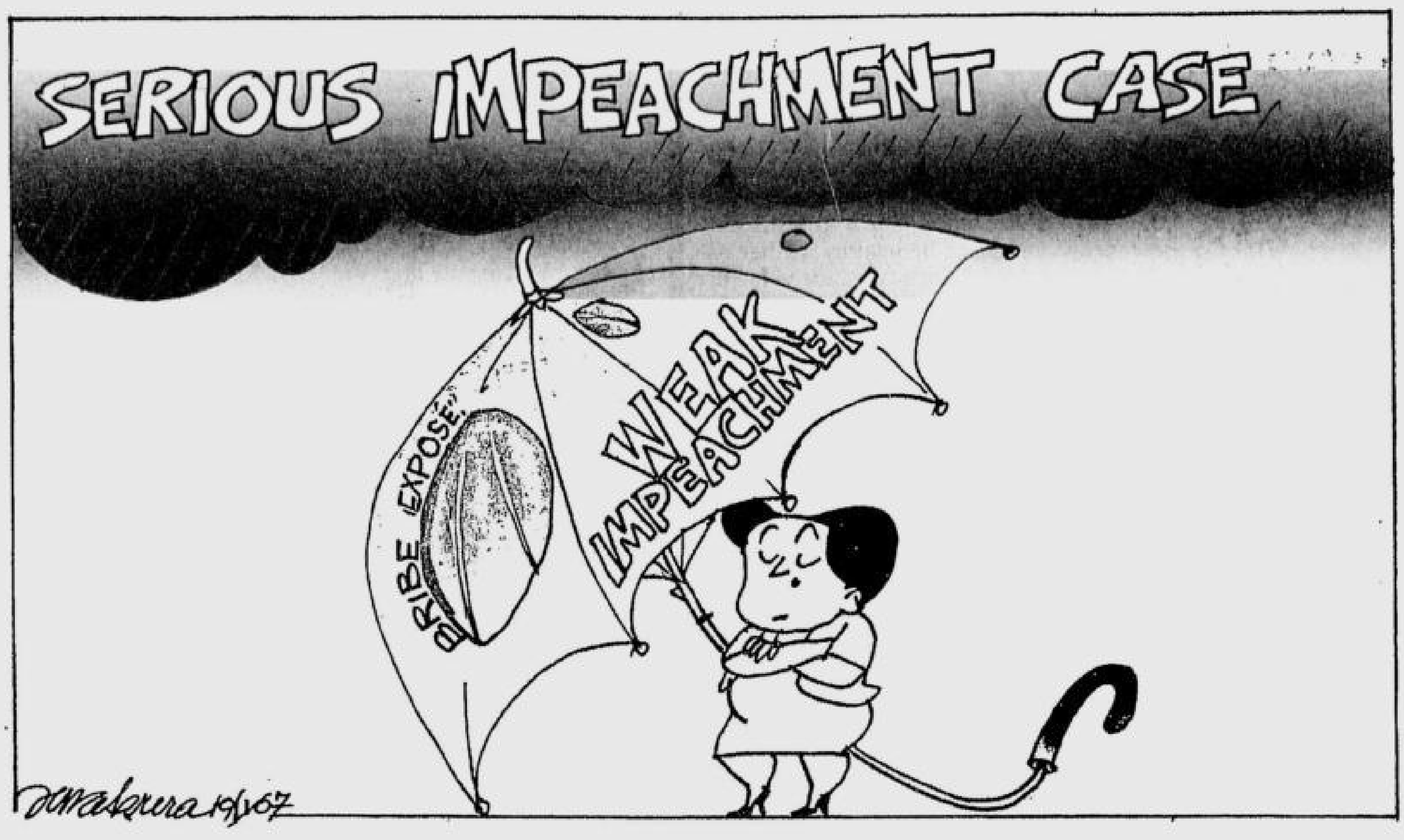

Death as embargo waiver

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE E-MAIL FROM INDIA WAS DIRECT: ONE of Asia's outstanding foresters lost his battle with leukemia. Dr. C. Chandrasekharan just completed a 351-page manuscript on Asia's troubled forestry. A colleague in the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in Bangkok and Rome, "Chandra" made a request: draft a feature, in layman's language, that would be released on the day the book comes off the press. But death remained the ultimate waiver for embargoes. Below is a summary of that draft.

Asia lost, over the last half century, half of its forests. This depletion is historically unprecedented. It also triggered accelerating degradation, whose adverse impacts could scuttle hopes for 21st-century re-greening.

Damage inflicted by subtle degradation can be 10 times more severe than deforestation. If unchecked, investments and programs are reduced to "nothing more than chasing the wind."

Asia and the Pacific are unevenly forested. Only 2.1 percent of Afghanistan has trees left, while forests blanket 67 percent of Papua New Guinea. About 450 million people, including indigenous tribes, depend on this resource for survival.

But there's little elbow room left. Mass poverty, economic and technological change, plus expectations of larger populations, ratchet pressure on forests.

Region-wide, gross deforestation now reaches an estimated three to four million hectares annually. In the Greater Mekong Subregion, forests roughly the size of nine small island countries are razed yearly. Asia-Pacific countries are down to only 0.16 ha per head, compared to 1.89 ha for Latin America.

Wood harvests rose nearly sixfold in the last 50 years. A timber-rich exporter in the mid-1950s, the Philippines today imports wood.

There's a "black hole" on information about trees outside forests. So, treat with skepticism those rosy forecasts on adequate wood and fiber in the near future. Forest statistics are often doctored. Over a decade, actual deforestation in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand and Vietnam reached almost eight times more than what official reports depict.

Degradation's onset—falling crown covers, failure of plants to regenerate, soil collapse, shrinking share of commercial species—is incremental. It's hard to spot. Over the long run, degradation can inflict more system-wide irreversible damage.

The single statistic of shrinking wood volume is "the smoking gun." In 1990, Asia Pacific had 125 cubic meters per hectare. But in just a decade, this had been whittled down to less than half: 61 cubic meters per hectare. "Shrinkage of biomass, within the same period, was even more drastic: 171,000/ha to only 77,000/ha."

Such losses "pauperize" countries. Erosion, genetic loss, wildlife decimation and dissipation of forest capital hobble growth. "Failure to enhance Asia-Pacific forest resources, at the turn of the century, resulted in estimated disinvestment of over $30 billion—five times more the 1990 level. The comparative global figure is fourfold."

If depletion persists, ecological systems unravel and damage spills across borders. Asian "options for moving from today's fuelwood consumers to 21st-century producers of valuable forest-based products would prematurely slam shut."

The causes interlock: from fire, tenurial conflicts and smuggling to shoddy governance and corruption. "About half of wood is wasted in logging. No penalties are exacted for inefficiency, squandering or deliberate damage."

Asia's recorded timber production, at the millennium's start, topped 120 million cubic meters. "Almost half came from illicit sources." Some forest concessions are linked to the trade in drugs and weapons. "There simply are too many people who stand to gain from maintaining the existing way of doing things... And all too often, there's a crippling lack of trust between governments, on one hand, and civil society and private business, on the other."

Today, elites cream off forestry benefits. But these benefits are denied to local, often impoverished communities. Forestry "is not contributing to poverty alleviation and development in ways that it could."

Afforestation gains haven't reversed gross deforestation. And once-high hopes that plantations and managed secondary forests would "regreen" denuded areas have been dampened.

Only 34 percent of planted forests are properly managed. "All agree that a world razing its forests at a rate of 25 ha per minute cannot continue."

"The last 20 years saw waves of change alter forestry." A number of countries made transitions to an open society, democratic institutions and a market economy. Enabling poor people to gain secure livelihoods in forest areas is the surest protection for the environment. But progress has been slow. A major reason is "resistance of the very agencies charged with their implementation."

Simultaneously, investments for man-made forests—from plantations, permanent forest estates to protected areas—must be secured. Interlinked strategies should include updating of resource inventories and establishing legal frameworks for science-based forestry management. Long-ignored areas, such as chemical wealth of plants and non-wood forest products, remain to be tapped.

Resource bankruptcy can be prevented. But 21st-century forestry requires updated strategies, within an overall framework of sustainable management and investment. "There is a growing constituency that sees forests as a common heritage." Despair is not an option simply because the consequences are unthinkable.

***

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Two questions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FIRST IS: WHY CAN'T MIKE ARROYO ATtend the Senate hearing on the ZTE deal?

Is he a material witness? Yes. Joey de Venecia has accused him of being involved in the deal, indeed of being its main backer, even ordering him to "back off" when he started raising questions about it, with a view to pushing his (and his father's) own deal. Arroyo, of course, has denied it. How could he have said something like that to someone he didn't even know? he told reporters at the airport upon coming back from a trip to Hong Kong. That point could easily be cleared up, along with a few other things, in the hearing.

Is he fit to attend the hearing? Well, his cardiologists at St. Luke's say he isn't; the hearing might put a severe strain on his constitution. Alan Peter Cayetano and other senators say they might not summon him in light of this.

But here's the thing that puzzles me. Between flying to Hong Kong (some say he went well past it) and appearing in the Senate, surely it's a tossup which one puts a more severe strain on a ravaged constitution. If a battery of doctors can accompany him on his trips abroad to make sure nothing untoward happens to him, surely a battery of doctors can accompany him on his trip just beyond the CCP Complex to make sure the nation can continue to toast to his health and happiness for years to come.

But still more than that, why should appearing in the Senate hearing pose a threat to health? As far as I know, the polygraph test, also called the lie detector test, functions this way: The people who administer it know you are lying when you show signs of anxiety over certain questions, as physically indicated by faster heartbeat, elevated blood pressure, nervousness, etc. That is why when people think you have something to hide, they ask you if you are willing to take a lie detector test. The hope is that you fail the lie detector test if you are lying, or at least that it gives you some sleepless nights to go with your guilt.

But which is also why, if you have nothing to hide, you say "sure" to the invitation. You have nothing to hide, you are telling the truth, you will breeze through a polygraph test. A Senate hearing is far more benign than a polygraph test—in theory at least, it does not presume you guilty until proven innocent. If the First Gentleman has nothing to hide, if he is telling the truth, why on earth should appearing in the Senate threaten his health? If he isn't, well, he can always take his cue from Norberto Gonzales and quite healthily chomp on a banana.

As far as I know, there is one thing that guarantees health: a clean conscience.

My second question is: Why can't Joe de V move to impeach GMA?

I know Roel Pulido's case, as pushed by Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis, is weaker than government's claim of solid economic gains, and I know it's made even weaker by several congressmen denouncing a Malacañang lackey's attempt to bribe them to endorse the complaint. Where there's smoke, there's fire; where there's a bribe, there's a scam. I know GMA has committed more impeachable offenses than not acting on Romulo Neri's report that the Comelec chief tried to bribe him. Lest we forget, there's a parallel Senate hearing on the "Hello, Garci" tape based on new testimony. I myself suspect that Pulido's complaint is meant to draw attention away from it and consign it to oblivion.

But if Joe de V's House has also shown anything, it is that the question is not how reasonable or unreasonable, how iron-clad or full of holes the case you bring to them is. It is: What's in it for them? Someone can bring them all the proof she was raped, and Luis Villafuerte and Edcel Lagman will only see she seduced her violator. Where there's no will, there's no way. Where there's a will, there's a waylaying. Where there's a will, GMA could be guilty of jaywalking and she could be impeached.

There is much in it for Joe de V. There's carrot and there's stick.

The stick is patent; that comes in the form of his vulnerability as Speaker of the House. The one who brought Erap's house down not too long ago was someone who feared for his life, who was Chavit Singson. Joe de V should find himself in the same predicament today, at least as far as his political life goes. If the grapevine is to be believed, the rift between the De Venecias and the Arroyos has gotten wider, the feud between them has gotten deeper. How long will it take before Kampi delivers a coup in Congress, with money flowing as abundantly as when the Speaker and his minions killed the impeachment complaint, and he is shown the door? Survival is one damn good incentive.

Even better, turning from heel to hero. The two classic examples are Chavit Singson and Juan Ponce Enrile. Who now remembers that Chavit himself, as Erap's lawyers in the impeachment trial kept pointing out, wallowed knee-deep in the same pile of, well, mud, the other members of Erap's "Midnight Cabinet" did? Just as well, who now remembers that Enrile was Marcos' fair-haired boy during martial law, the one who most stood by his side until he was replaced by Fabian Ver, the latter showing more dogged loyalty? Indeed, who now remembers he triggered martial law by faking an ambush on his person, which he admitted freely after Edsa, only to take it back desperately later on? Enrile holed up in the cocoon of Camp Aguinaldo and emerged from it with butterfly wings; Chavit made *sabit* his buddy and now makes it a habit to bet on Pacquiao in far-off Las Vegas. De Venecia impeaches GMA for whatever reason—the telenovela that is the trial will do the rest—and people could forget that he and Tabako have much to do with her still being there.

Stranger things have been known to happen.

One-sided move

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUES to conduct budget hearings and plans to approve the 2008 budget on second reading at 5 a.m. tomorrow, Oct. 12. The House hopes to approve it on third reading early next month when it returns from recess. Then it is hoping that the bicameral conference committee will approve it before Christmas.

It's a one-sided move, though, since the Senate has closed shop since last week, contrary to the provision of Art. VI, Sec. 16 (5) that both chambers have to agree on a common date for adjournment. The two chambers had agreed to a three-week recess starting Oct. 12, but many senators could no longer hold off their travel plans and left for Europe last week (including three members of the Cayetano family). What's likely to happen is that a single senator would declare the session to be in recess. Ironically, this chamber received the highest public satisfaction rate among the public, according to the latest SWS poll.

* * *

In our recent radio program, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said that the strong showing of our economy will make any move by the opposition to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo through mass actions highly unlikely. For one thing, he said, the middle class won't move and there are no LGUs going against GMA, one reason being that GMA raised their internal revenue allotments from P98 billion to P210 billion. He predicted the GDP growth rate to accelerate from the current 7.5 percent to 8 percent or even 9 percent in the next two years. To a large extent the economy is buoyed by the strong global economy, said Salceda. But one other thing going for it is that there are labor demands abroad that only Filipino workers can fill, owing to their "unique socio-cultural predisposition to the Western lifestyle" which makes them so adaptable.

We're the only country in the world that has a POEA, thanks to Speaker Jose de Venecia, said Salceda. He also noted that helping the RP labor export is the fact that unlike in many other countries, our tertiary education is predominantly in the hands of the private sector. Thus, private schools are able to charge fees and shift courses according to labor demands abroad. One example he cited is AMA Computer College whose biggest course offering now is nursing.

* * *

My good friend Maribel Carag-Dario called me to help drum up support for the Bayanihan Folk Arts Foundation's celebration of the 50 years of this famed dance troupe's existence this year. Few institutions in this country deserve more kudos than this dance troupe which has graced many a state banquet as well as renowned theaters around the world, beginning with its opening performance at the Winter Garden in 1957, which took New York City by storm. The anniversary executive committee headed by Tony Fabella and co-chaired by Rosky Balahadia Hilado and Leni Alano Cabili has scheduled a number activities to cap the celebrations during "Alumni Week" from Oct. 7 to 14, which will draw local Bayanihan alumni from all over the world. Among its highlights are the memorabilia exhibit of Bayanihan's "On Golden Wings" which opened last Monday at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City. Part of the Bayanihan costume collection is on display there, as well as many photos of the troupe's performances around the world. Other highlights are the Bayanihan Build Day with Gawad Kalinga in Trece Martires, Cavite, tomorrow, and the "Grand Artists Ball" to be held this Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom on Ortigas Avenue at 7 p.m.

* * *

As a respite from "political noises" around us, my husband and I try to see as many cultural presentations as we can. Last Monday, we watched a special screening at Greenbelt 3 of an old film, "Los Ultimos de Filipinas," sponsored by Instituto Cervantes as part of its current film festival. Shot in Spain in the late 1940s in an attempt to recreate Baler, the film tells the story of the siege in what's now Aurora province. It tells about how 50 Spanish troops retreated inside the baroque town church for a last stand, refusing to surrender for many months—long after the war had ended in 1898 and the Treaty of Paris had ceded this remote Pacific colony to the United States— because there were no official orders from across the seas. The Spaniards, led by a captain, fought not just Filipino rebels but also hunger, disease, despair and lack of ammunitions. Ultimately convinced of the war's adverse outcome by a copy of an old Spanish newspaper, the 30 survivors finally marched out of the church, their heads held high, and the Filipino troops received them with honor befitting their gallantry and nobility.

The hearty applause from the predominantly Filipino audience showed that people revel in the nobility of action and purpose regardless of race. Congratulations to Instituto Cervantes director Pepe Rodriguez, who has been aggressive in promoting Spanish culture here. I suggest that the Spanish government try to market this plot to Hollywood for a remake, in the tradition of celebrated historic last stands, such as that of Texans and famed frontiersmen against attacking Mexicans at the Alamo in Texas or the tiny band of British troops defending a hospital against thousands of Zulu tribesmen in Rourke's Drift, South Africa, or the Israelites' last stand at Masada.

* * *

Retrouvaille reminder: This international ministry dedicated to helping heal troubled marriages will conduct another live-in program starting tomorrow, Oct. 12 until Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City. Contact Fr. Dave Clay, 0918-9020-511 or 525-0308; Ruby Sy at 931-8313 and 0918-9232-973; Nes and Inday, 938-9719 or 0916-4438-346, or Neomi at 681-5746 or 0916-3954-4642. All calls are strictly confidential.

'Go repair my house'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High, and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation, to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship."—**from the Rule of Saint Francis**

THIS COLUMN PIECE SHOULD HAVE COME out last week, when the feast of St. Francis, patron of the environment, was celebrated. But he could be everybody's everyday saint and his teachings remain as relevant as when he walked this earth some 12 centuries ago.

St. Francis is often associated with sweet images of flowers, birds, trees and animals. Last week, pets in their furriest and scaliest glory were again paraded on the streets by their Filipino humans to proclaim the saint's love for God's creatures.

Many sang paeans to Brother Sun and Sister Moon, to peace and kinship, to earth's beauty and everything that dwells therein. As if all these come naturally these days.

No, they no longer do. There is now a price to pay to enjoy a smog-free landscape, the good smell of moist earth, the clean wind on one's face, safe water to drink, natural unadulterated food, the virgin wilderness, hillsides that don't threaten to cascade on one's home.

If St. Francis were walking on Philippine soil today, what would he find? Would he be disappointed? Would he feel hopeful?

He would probably get mired in a mudslide, have a coughing fit upon beholding the smog hovering over Metro Manila, admonish someone who nonchalantly throws a fast-food styrofoam pack into the gutter, be shocked at the state of destitution in cities and hamlets, not find dignity in Lady Poverty whom he embraced in his time. He could even take a bullet. Like anti-mining activist Armin Marin of Sibuyan Island.

But he would gladly attend the launch of a Greenpeace report that exposes the close ties of multinational producers of genetically modified organism (GMO) products and government regulatory agencies, making the credibility of the Philippine GMO regulatory system questionable.

Philippine civilization would get a dismal grade in the saint's book. For St. Francis is not the cartoon saint that he is often portrayed to be, he was a serious peace advocate and lover of creation.

Long before so-called creation spirituality became in vogue among theologians, St. Francis, like his female Benedictine counterpart from another age, saint and mystic Hildegard of Bingen, was already into it.

Today's scholars of Franciscanism have had to get past the Hollywood fluff and comic-book portrayal of the saint to get at the meat of his life's message.

Franciscan of the Third Order Charles G. Spencer says: "If we were to visit St. Francis' Basilica and deface a fresco, the world would quickly know, and we'd be chastised. However, for the corporate culture to purge endangered species, develop biological polluting genetic mutants, bio-load toxic metals, acid, dioxin and other persistent chlorinated compounds and hormone disrupters into our environment, spread toxic waste sewage sludge and pesticides over pure and fertile ground, incinerate waste without regard for the chemical complexities of the waste stream or resultant emissions, cause untold animal suffering, etc., etc., we are told is the price for progress."

That St. Francis would move small worms to the side of the path to get them out of harm's way has been historically recorded. That neighborly act was not remarkable during his time, but now, it is, considering how alienated people are from their earthy neighbors.

St. Francis need not point out that the state of Philippine environment is far from pretty. The air and water have increasingly become polluted, marine and forest biodiversity are under threat, the forest cover is decreasing at an alarming rate, there is subsidence in cities. And with global warming upon Planet Earth, the Philippine environment will soon be among the gravely endangered. Unless...

St. Francis was a lover of children and he would not like to see so many kids left starving and roaming the streets. He would balk at the yawning gap between the rich and the poor, with the latter often blamed for so many societal and environmental ills—crime, garbage, ugliness. What about the owners of the millions of vehicles that release toxic emissions into the air?

No less than an environment secretary himself said that about 70 percent of air pollution comes from emissions by 5 million vehicles around the country, contributing to the country's "dubious distinction" of having the second most polluted air in terms of suspended particulates among Asean countries.

Solid waste remains a problem that contributes to land, air and water pollution. Metro Manila alone produces 6,169 tons of garbage daily.

The 19 million hectares of forest cover in 1920 has been reduced to less than half. Logging and populations that invade upland areas are the main culprits. The Philippines is said to have the lowest forest cover among Asean countries. Mangroves are disappearing in coastal areas. Philippine wildlife's habitat loss is cause for concern. St. Francis would be dismayed that the winged and crawling creatures are losing their homes.

But St. Francis would be happy to see that local governments and communities, the indigenous communities especially, are taking part in the restoration of the environment.

Some 730 years ago in San Damiano, Italy, St. Francis heard the crucified Jesus speak: "Go, repair My house, which you can see is falling completely to ruin." St. Francis' own dying words ring true anew in this age: "Let us begin, for up until now we have done nothing."

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The invisible ball

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ROBERTO RAFAEL PULIDO'S IMPEACHMENT complaint is five pages long. Three pages constitute the complaint; the fourth constitutes Laguna Rep. Edgar S. San Luis' endorsement, and the fifth, Pulido's verification that he, indeed, submitted the complaint and that he is who he says he is.

The lawyer's complaint calls for the impeachment of the President of the Philippines, pursuant to Article XI, Sections 2 and 3, of the Constitution. The statement of facts are as follows: First, that on June 30, 2004, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath of office as President of the Philippines. Second, that "thereafter, or on July 1, 2004" Ms Arroyo assumed office and took on the duties of the presidency. Third, that during the incumbency of Ms Arroyo, the secretary of transportation and communications entered into an agreement with ZTE on April 21, 2007. The agreement contained terms and conditions disadvantageous to the Filipino people.

Fourth, "It appears that entering into such contract was actually dictated by the illegal and corrupt machinations undertaken by high government officials, including but not limited to [Chairman Abalos, Speaker de Venecia, his son, Jose de Venecia III]. In fact, in an affidavit executed by [Joey] he admits that a breakfast meeting was organized by [JDV] to allow [NBN proponents ZTE and AHI to consolidate their NBN proposals]." Affidavit attached.

Fifth, that the "corrupt and illegal negotiations" were taking place "was not unknown" to the President, because Joey, in his affidavit, said his father told him that he (the Speaker), Abalos and the President had discussed the AHI and ZTE proposals over a golf game in China.

Sixth and "worse," on Sept. 26, 2007 Romulo Neri admitted under oath that Abalos had offered him a bribe; and that despite being told of the offer, the President did nothing.

Therefore, the complaint concludes, the President betrayed the public trust when she had the project implemented by the Department of Transportation and Communications.

San Luis' endorsement, in turn, says he found it sufficient in form and substance; and that furthermore, he read the complaint, are true "of my own knowledge and belief on the basis if my reading and appreciation of documents," etc.

For a profession not known for it, this document is an amazing example of legal brevity. Enough has been written about the circumstances surrounding its filing for me to be able to dispense with those details. So let us tackle its assertions and arguments one by one.

The complaint says that the President took her oath of office on one date, and then entered into her responsibilities a day later. This is itself a curious assertion to make. A president becomes president at the precise instant the oath of office has been recited (and then, for the record, signed). This is a trivial detail but one of the opening statements of facts is wrong, one of the House legal beagles might just sniff it out and use it as a reason to void the rest of the document's assertions.

The complaint attaches the affidavit of Joey de Venecia as proof of something. What, exactly, the affidavit proves, is unclear. Neither in his sworn testimony in public or in his affidavit did De Venecia the Younger say anything about the President's culpability.

Paragraph 5 refers to the President, the Speaker, and ex-Chairman Abalos talking about the deal—a conversation which, by all accounts, did not touch on bribes.

The admission of Neri, that he informed the President of the bribe offer, ends right there. We do not know, because Neri would not say, what the President said or did next after that revelation. When some senators pressed for ways to make Neri say what he refused to discuss further, other senators blocked the effort. All we know is that Neri invoked executive privilege and stopped short of talking about the President's statements or actions after he had divulged the offer of a bribe.

The accusation itself is so generic that it includes De Venecia the Younger as a co-conspirator. This might be useful in a case against the De Venecias but not in a case aimed at impeaching the President, in a conspiracy that identifies ZTE as the beneficiary of Abalos' influence-peddling, which bore fruit in terms of a deal signed by Mendoza, upon authority of a President who was aware that Abalos tried to bribe another member of her Cabinet, Neri.

And the congressman who endorsed the complaint, San Luis, did not admit to the truth of the allegations of the complaint when interpellated on the floor. This is contrary to the verification he signed and which was attached to the complaint: that he, San Luis, knew to the best of his knowledge, what was in the complaint was true. That alone makes the complaint defective.

So defective, indeed, that San Luis, if he had any brains at all, should withdraw his endorsement. For the sake of the ruling coalition, of course, if not the House as a whole. Otherwise, the House of Representatives, regardless of the individual affiliations of its members (admittedly, a difficult thing to determine at any given moment of time) would be reduced to debating the merits of an empty piece of paper.

Which is what the complaint seems to be. Containing nothing, identifying nothing, endorsing nothing, it is nothing.

Being nothing, what action would be appropriate? The whole thing is like asking the Speaker to throw an imaginary ball to the committee on justice, which would have to pretend to catch it, and then do something preparatory to throwing the imaginary ball back to the plenary, which would then be asked to throw that imaginary ball among themselves for a while in order to determine for what game the imaginary ball is intended.

No wonder Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago finds the whole thing funny.

Roommates

YOUNG BLOOD

Charmie Saligumba

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ITS MUSTY SMELL MADE ME CRINGE AND DAMPENED MY already weakened spirit. Examining the room, I asked myself why I chose to be there anyway. No malls. No fast-food chain where I could order my favorite yummy burger whenever I wanted to. No movie theaters. No cable TV, and therefore no more "One Tree Hill." I felt deprived. Why now? Why not before?

But then I wanted a taste of independence, didn't I? Being independent was not going to be easy, I finally concluded.

As I looked some more, I noticed pieces of papers littering the floor. The study desks were covered with stickers, cartoon characters and class schedules. Cobwebs were beginning to invade the corners of the ceiling. Four beds were stacked in one other corner. They stood like big mirrors looming over me, except that I could not see myself in them. The lockers, which badly needed a fresh coat of paint, stood open, waiting for new students to fill their empty, dusty and insecticide-smelling spaces.

I was neither impressed nor happy with what I saw. It reminded me once again that my high school days were over and my college days were fast approaching. After checking out the place where I was going to stay, I went back home to wait for classes to open.

All too soon the dreadful day arrived. There was no turning back. I would have to live in that room with three strangers. We were going to share that same room for 10 months, a first-time experience for me and maybe for most of us who were going to live in the dormitory.

Krizia was the first roommate I met. She was from Mindanao, and that was the reason she came earlier than the others. She was going to take up Fisheries, the university's flagship course. She explained that she first wanted to enroll in Broadcast Communication, but thought the opportunities in that field were limited. She shifted courses after receiving the UPCAT results.

I did not feel happy when she said those things. That was the course I was going to take. Was she telling me that I had no future after I graduated? "But it's up to the person to find find a good job, isn't it?" I told her, while trying very hard to hide my disappointment.

Then I met Felisa, my second roommate. She was wearing a spaghetti strapped blouse and eating crackers while sitting on her bed when I first saw her. She was a cute girl from Iloilo. She spoke Karay-a and I found her amusing. Our conversation ended as quickly as it started during our first meeting.

Regine, my third roommate, came from the same place as ours. But I thought she was out of place in our room. She brought half of their house with her. I couldn't stand watching our room being drowned by her things that I decided to leave right there and then.

As the days passed, I got to know these three strangers better. From strangers we became roommates, from roommates we became friends, and from being friends we became the best of friends.

I soon realized that Krizia, whom we fondly christened "Mami Fish," was the same as any other student. She wanted to take a course that would land her a good job.

Felisa, who struck me as timid at first, said I would just nod when she tried to make small talk. She thought I was a snob then.

Regine, she's really simple. Forget about that thing about bringing half of their house. She only brought half of her closet. She just owned a lot of stuff.

Living inside those four walls gave me a glimpse of things I was not expecting to learn. Every day I learned to be patient. Thanks to Mami Fish, I mastered the art of sleeping at night without the comfort of anything soft to support my head.

I enjoyed the small privileges of being away from home, out of view of my parents and free from scoldings for arriving home late and sibling spats. More than that, I met three wonderful people, three special persons who helped me survive my first year in college. Like me, they overcame the challenges they faced away from their comfort zones. We learned to gain strength from each other when we felt low. In that room, we built a friendship that time cannot dissolve or weaken.

Now in my sophomore year, I miss the *salu-salos* of *pancit canton* that we used to have, our late-night talks and our cotton-ball fights—even our petty misunderstandings. I miss Mami Fish's late-night walkouts when we became too boisterous or talked endlessly. She couldn't stand our loud voices.

I miss that room. I miss the way it smelled, the way our things were scattered all over the floor, the way the dust gathered under our beds, the way the door creaked and sounded when it was slammed shut.

I miss our beds. Those beds that we would put together, for we never slept with beds apart. That was the best thing about sleeping with them.

I miss everything in that room. And most of all, I miss those three souls who shared it with me.

Ten months passed and we had to go our separate ways. We had to leave that freshmen's dorm. We had to leave our room. Regine rented an apartment. Fel stayed in another dorm. I was given the privilege of staying.

Mami Fish shifted courses again and went to UP Baguio to take up Fine Arts. Finally, she is taking a course that her heart wants.

I have new roommates: Angelica, Ate Maan and Mik-Mik. They are wonderful persons. We get along fine. But when I try to sleep at night in my new bed, I find it strange. Its unfamiliar feel and smell makes me long for our old room. I still long for the company of Fel, Rej and Mami Fish.

Charmie Saligumba, 18, is a BA Broadcast Communication sophomore at the University of the Philippines Visayas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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'Amazing' display at UN

I CANNOT HELP BUT BE AMAZED at Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's gall in declaring, before the United Nations, the Philippine government's achievement in the field of human rights and in daring the military rulers of Burma (Myanmar) to follow her country's path to democracy.

I wonder if her audience bought her lies. After all, it was the UN's very own Philip Alston who saw for himself the real picture of human rights violations in this country—including the gory extrajudicial killings, under her rule, of about 800 political critics, journalists, human rights activists and religious leaders. He reported that the military and the police could have prevented the killings; instead, there were indications that they either condoned the killings or committed many of the violations themselves, thus laying the responsibility on their commander in chief who is the President.

Presidential spinmeister Ignacio Bunye likewise had the gall to announce that Ms Arroyo's trip to the UN was "very successful in conveying to the international audience and stakeholders the good message about what is happening in the Philippines."

GMA was even ecstatic about the polite comment of former US President Bill Clinton, not realizing, perhaps, that he might have said it as an act of diplomatic nicety.

What Ms Arroyo told her UN audience is exactly the opposite of what has been happening on the ground. Her call on Burma to follow the Philippines' path to democracy has long been answered by that country's junta which has been walking abreast with her paid generals who helped her win in the 2004 elections and who have been her effective arm in enforcing unconstitutional declarations.

Who does she think she is fooling?

—RAMON MAYUGA,
GeRMayuga@aol.com

Bad journalism, differing opinions

THIS REFERS TO EDMUND L. Sicam's article, "Senators as TV performers: That's entertainment." (INQUIRER, 9/30/07)

We take exception to the personal attacks Sicam made against Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. He berated her for her "grating voice, sour face and aggressive demeanor," while glossing over the merits of her arguments. The article was clearly biased against the senator.

The senator spoke against Sicam's brand of irresponsible journalism in a privilege speech delivered on Oct. 1, 2007.

—JEANIE BACONG,
Public Affairs,
Office of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

The good senator read too much into my piece. I was assigned to write a review of the senators as TV performers during the hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal. I registered my professional reaction to them. I believe I am entitled to my opinion in the same way that the senator is entitled to her opinion that the Chinese invented corruption.

—EDMUND L. SICAM

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

May GSIS amend act of Congress?

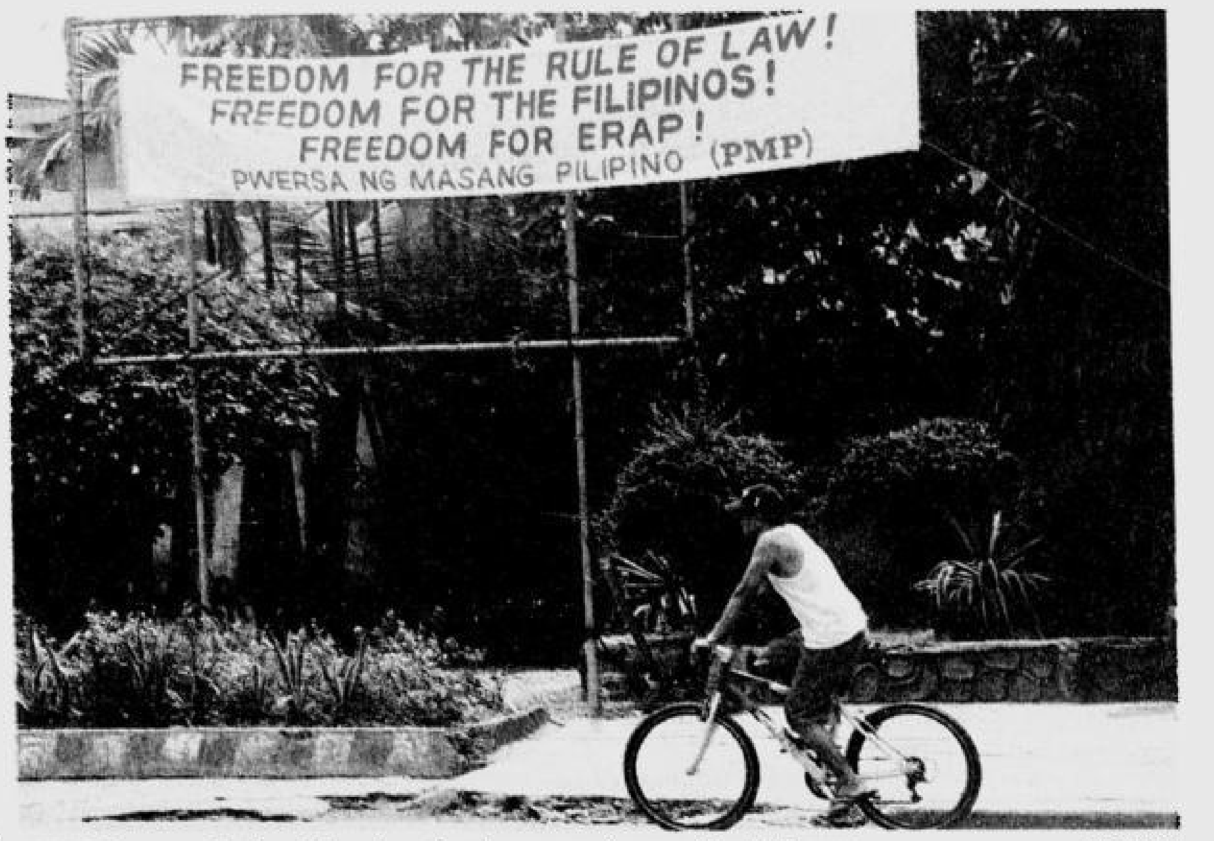
I AM A GSIS RETIREE, FORMERLY an employee of the Development Bank of the Philippines. I retired last May 31, 2007 under Republic Act 660. One feature of the law grants the retiree a five-year lump sum. My pension, as approved by the GSIS, will begin on June 1, 2012.

I already received my one-year lump sum. But when I filed a claim for the additional four-year lump sum, I was informed by the Claims Department of the GSIS that it would be against the new policy of the GSIS to grant my claim outright.

I reasoned out that the GSIS had informed me that I'm entitled to a five-year lump sum; but the GSIS representative only insisted that following the new policy of the GSIS, my remaining four-year lump sum will be paid on a six-month interval (of one year each).

My question is: RA 660 is a law; is the GSIS empowered to amend this law? Is a GSIS policy sufficient to amend/alter this law?

—JULIO G. SEVILA JR.,
b13jgs@yahoo.com.ph


FREEDOM FOR THE RULE OF LAW!
FREEDOM FOR THE FILIPINOS!
FREEDOM FOR ERAP!
PWERSA NG MASANG PILIPINO (PMP)

MORE than a cry for Erap's freedom, the streamer voices a national dilemma FILE PHOTO

Pardon for Erap: reconciliation or protection?

I CANNOT FIND ANY JUSTIFICATION in the rush to pardon Joseph Estrada. His is one of the worst corruption cases in the Philippines. And after being found guilty beyond reasonable doubt by the court, he refuses to admit his guilt or beg for forgiveness; instead he arrogantly wants to insist on his "innocence" as a pre-condition for his acceptance of a "pardon."

I do not believe that the proposal to grant pardon to Estrada is motivated by the spirit of "reconciliation." To me, it seems like it is motivated more by the need of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her ilk for protection from possible corruption charges in the future.

If pardon is granted so easily to plunderers, like Jaime Ponce de Leon who did not serve one minute of his 216 years of imprisonment, we might as well decriminalize corruption and plunder.

—RAYMOND COLET,
raycolet@yahoo.fr

Transparent frog skin for public officials, anyone?

READING THE INQUIRER'S SEPT. 28 issue, I think it would have been great if the editors had placed on the front page two articles I found in the Business section: the opening of Jollibee's "Tio Pepe's Karinderia" and the achievements of the Cooperative Bank of Benguet (CBB). I have stopped reading the news about the Senate hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal. It seems Jollibee and CBB are doing more service to our fellow Filipinos than our honorable lawmakers (newsmakers?) do.

And I found an encouraging bit of news in the "World Briefs" section of the same issue. It's about a Japanese biologist who developed a frog with transparent skin—a milestone, because researchers won't have to dissect innocent frogs: what's going on in their bones and organs can be seen through their skin (you only have to make the frogs lie on their back). Could we ask the new Japanese prime minister to lend us that biologist for our friends in public office? A little bit more of transparency in the public sector would save us from the endless spectacle of dissection by the blue ribbon committee.

—LUIS P. SUPAN,
159 Mother Ignacia Ave., QC

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Points Solita Monsod missed in Jpepa

THIS REFERS TO SOLITA MONSOD'S COLumn, "The other side of Jpepa." (INQUIRER, 10/6/07)

If Monsod only took the time to read the draft, she would have immediately noticed that the article on scraps and wastes (pp. 16-17) had been stricken out. (This is consistent with the earlier opposition of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the inclusion of toxic and hazardous wastes. The Basel Convention and Republic Act 6969 prohibits the inclusion of such wastes in our list of committed tradable goods. The Convention allows developed countries to accept these wastes because it recognizes these countries can manage them. On the other hand, it bans the importation of such wastes into developing countries precisely because they cannot manage them.)

Also, the article on used cars was not in the draft; and that there is an article that threatens the jobs of 350,000 workers in the local car manufacturing industry; that our nurses will be sent to Japan as trainees—a deviation from the draft's initial position seeking Japan's recognition of our nurses as equally qualified upon entry to Japan. Indonesia got a better deal although their nurses undergo only a three-year nursing course; and they are required to have just a two-year work experience.

Also, if Monsod took the time to read the two-page diplomatic notes found on the Mofa's website, she would have noticed immediately that it covers only toxic wastes and that the legal arguments of the pro-Jpepa panel are absurd.

The papers of the PIDS have been accurate and if its recommendations on the protection of our local agricultural industry, on the necessity of technology transfer and on the sensitivity of the automobile sector were adopted, our government negotiators would not have failed to protect the interests of the Filipino people. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and even Singapore got Japan to commit to the elimination of trade-distorting export subsidies. Our negotiators only got a best-efforts commitment to remove export subsidies. The PIDS studies already revealed Japan's request to lift our constitutional rule against foreign ownership of private lands, and yet our negotiators did not make the correct exception to our commitment on national treatment.

Monsod is wrong in saying no tariffs will be imposed on our agriculture exports. Japan's agriculture representatives were clear during the negotiation process that tariff elimination is not their priority; they want to protect their own local industries. Page 8 of the Jpepa Joint Coordinating Team Report reveals Japan's protective stance for its agricultural industry.

In its agreements with other countries, Japan did not force them to give up certain provisions necessary to protect local industries. The pro-Jpepa panel insists that if we do not sign this treaty, we will miss the boat. Unfortunately, the Jpepa in its current form, will cause the Filipino people not only to miss the boat but also drown in the sea of negotiation mistakes.

—GOLDA S. BENJAMIN,
lead counsel,
Magkaisa Junk Jpepa Coalition,
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6 Kalayaan Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Why Muslim topped search for MSU president

"SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF the Mindanao State University." This was the lead sentence of Conrado de Quiros' Sept. 4 column.

I was intrigued by the statement. As an MSU alumnus, I want to see my alma mater in "the best of health." Thus, I looked around the MSU campus, asked people and made some research on why the recommendation of the 2005 Search Committee for the MSU presidency was not followed.

I became more curious when De Quiros said: President Macapagal-Arroyo, on Aug. 8, 2007, told Dr. Macapado Muslim that she was appointing him MSU president in one week's time. To this day, Muslim—like his brethren who have been promised the "Promised Land" by the government—is still waiting.

I have met Muslim several times. I find him a good man.

The MSU alumni and constituents questioned the recommendation of the MSU Search Committee for many reasons. For one, Muslim topped the short list of presidential contenders because three members of the committee were his bosom friends. There were reports that one member of the committee sent letters to alumni members to support Muslim. It was reported that in a meeting of the MSU board of regents, a student regent disowned his endorsement of Muslim, meaning his signature was forged. According to my sources, petitions, telegrams and letters have reached Malacañang urging GMA to review and disregard the 2005 Search Committee's recommendation.

Perhaps, the Palace had other reasons to appoint retired Gen. Ricardo de Leon as MSU's acting president. I was informed that the mission of De Leon was to reform the university and give it back its lost glory. It is true the MSU main campus in Marawi City is now clean and has numerous ongoing development programs.

The unremitted GSIS contributions of MSU's faculty and employees were settled under the leadership of De Leon. Unnecessary casual/contractual employees were removed from the payroll, and so MSU's finances are now back in the black. All buildings have been renovated and new ones are being constructed. Leakages of MSU funds have been discovered and plugged. There are many other improvements.

One should compare De Leon's two years with MSU with Dr. Camar Umpa's six years. De Leon has no ghost employees, no hundreds of relatives occupying MSU dormitories or "illegal structures" inside MSU.

The last very important fact that the 2005 Search Committee may have overlooked are the following charges against Muslim:

1. OMB-MIN-99-0200
2. OMB-MIN-ADM-08-237
3. OMB-MIN-99-0218
4. OMB-MIN-99-0260
5. OMB-MIN-99-0101
6. OMB-MIN-ADM-01-059

In fact, a warrant of arrest for Contempt of Court and Damages was issued against him on June 15, 2005.

—SULTAN CAMAR HASNAL,
Mindanao Sultanate Group,
Maharlika Village, Taguig City

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War on 'jueteng' in Pampanga starts

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—"*E TA NA TATAYA* (Let's stop betting)."

Text messages with this call started circulating in Pampanga this week as the Pampanga Against Gambling Council (PAGC) launched a campaign to make the province free from the illegal numbers game jueteng.

"Jueteng has 1,600 number combinations, from 1 to 40. You have to spend P1,600 to bet [P1] on every combination and win P700. You'll lose P900. Help enlighten the poor so that they will instead save their money than bet on jueteng. Please pass," went a text message, written in Kapampangan, sent by Rev. Arthur Tuazon, a Methodist pastor.

Tuazon said the message was composed by one of the officials of PAGC.

Text brigade

That official sent it to the council's leaders in 20 towns and in this Pampanga capital city who, in turn, have passed it on to their friends, relatives and neighbors.

They spread the message by sending this to their respective network of friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors.

"It carries what we call a basic information about jueteng. Bettors actually end up being losers. The chances of winning are really very little," Tuazon said.

The PAGC has not gauged yet if the message has actually convinced many people to stop trying their luck on the underground lottery.

Effects

But Tuazon said some 100 people within his network have stopped betting.

Aside from text messages, the PAGC has distributed used plastic bottles as improvised coin banks among drivers of tricycles and pedicabs in Mexico.

"That is where they put money that would have otherwise gone to jueteng bets," said Fr. Marius Roque, PAGC chair.

At least 60 drivers have joined this "campaign to save, not to bet," Roque said.

The money has been used to open a savings account with the Guagua Rural Bank in Mexico town and China Bank here, it was learned.

Savings account

Roque said these are the PAGC's "little ways" to help in the campaign of Gov. Eddie Panlilio to rid Pampanga of jueteng.

A manifesto that the PAGC has distributed said it was against illegal and legalized gambling.

"Despite her glorious past, Pampanga today is known to be the capital of ... jueteng. This game of chance is more than a plain, simple and harmless activity of simple folks. It is a widespread and systematic form of gambling that has turned into a billion-peso industry, has influenced Philippine politics and has been allowed to enter the homes of our Filipino families," it said in the manifesto.

"Gambling, whether illegal or legal, attacks the moral values of our people. It encourages people to covet other people's money. Gambling tempts [people] to attain wealth, not by means of industry, not by use of human wisdom and skill, but by simply entrusting one's hard earned money to luck," the PAGC said.

Police view

"Jueteng and small town lottery (STL) have threatened the moral values of our families by the mere fact that the betting transaction is taking place in our front doors, by our kitchen tables, in our living rooms, within the sanctuary of our very homes," it added.

The police, however, have an entirely different assessment.

"*Alang jueteng* (There is no jueteng)," Senior Supt. Keith Singian, Pampanga police director, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Wednesday.

"Only STL is played [in the province]," Singian said.

There are "bookies," which he defined as illegal operations of STL, and "many, many people" had been arrested for these games. He did not give numbers, though.

Singian said Panlilio had "looked at jueteng and STL as one and the same."

In a separate interview, Panlilio disputed Singian's view, saying what he said was jueteng has been using STL as a cover.

Panlilio said he would go "all out" in the anti-jueteng campaign in November or December, depending on the results of consolidation efforts of the provincial government, police and PAGC.

Iloilo mayor sued for trip paid for by Taiwan firm

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ENVIRONMENTAL groups and anti-coal plant advocates yesterday filed criminal and administrative charges against Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas for going on a trip to Taiwan sponsored by a company that wants to build a coal-fired plant in the city.

In a complaint filed before the regional office of the Office of the Ombudsman, groups belonging to the Responsible Ilonggos for Renewal Energy (Rise) accused Treñas of violating Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Lawyer Romeo Gerochi, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition in Iloilo, who filed the complaint on behalf of Rise, said Treñas' trip to Taiwan on Sept. 28-30 violated Section 7 of RA 61713.

Under this provision, public officials and employees are prohibited from "soliciting or accepting, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any operation being regulated by, or any transaction which may be affected by the functions of their office."

The Formosa Heavy Industries Corp. (FHIC), Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC) and the Panay Power Corp. (PPC) sponsored Treñas' trip to Taiwan.

Taiwan-based FHIC is the technical partner of GBPC, which proposes to put up a 100-megawatt coal power generation technology in Iloilo City. The FHIC also operates the Asia Power Energy Corp. in Mabalacat town, Pampanga.

The PPC, a subsidiary of the GBPC, supplies the power requirements in Iloilo City.

SURVIVING CRAFT
Fishermen in Matina Aplaya in Davao City build their own wooden boats designed for the high seas just like fishermen did in the past.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Papers on overpriced computers missing

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE BIDDING DOCuments of the controversial P23-million computer units bought by the Lapu-Lapu city government in 2005 were reported missing yesterday, an antigraft official said.

Ombudsman Director Virginia Santiago said they learned the documents could no longer be found after the Visayas Ombudsman issued a subpoena to the Lapu-Lapu City bids and awards committee requiring it to produce the bidding documents.

The Visayas Ombudsman was looking into the allegations raised by prominent businessmen on the island that the purchase of the computers was overpriced.

Coralpoint Educational Foundation Inc., chaired by Mactan Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Efrain Pelaez, filed antigraft charges against Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Arturo Radaza and several city officials for purchasing 470 overpriced computer units costing P49,900 each from Kein Enterprises in April 2005.

Coralpoint, a foundation that helps public schools on Mactan Island, claimed the computers actually cost less than half of the purchase price. It also questioned the qualification of the winning bidder as documents showed that Kein Enterprises, which operates in Cebu City, only had a capital of P30,000 with gross sales of P4.1 million in 2004.

Records from the Cebu City Treasurer's Office also revealed that the business permit of Kein Enterprises showed it was engaged in general merchandise or "buy and sell" business, not as a computer dealer.

The company gave its office address as 51-A Juana Osmeña Extension in Cebu City. But when the INQUIRER checked the address, it found that it was an apartment building and that the supplier was not one of the tenants.

Santiago said she was surprised to learn that some pertinent documents on the bidding appeared to be lost. Only the checklist for the eligibility verification of one bidder was found, she said.

Rolando Duero, head of the city's bids and awards committee (BAC) secretariat, told the Visayas Ombudsman in a letter yesterday that he found only the proposal of ATX Enterprises in their files.

ATX Enterprises, together with the Global Chips Technology, lost to Kein Enterprises in the bidding to supply the computers.

Duero said ATX Enterprises was disqualified from participating in the bidding because it submitted an expired Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) license.

Global Chips Technologies also failed to submit on time its technical bid proposal prompting the BAC to disqualify the bidder and award the project to Kein Enterprise, Duero added.

Ombudsman Director Edgar Canton said he found Duero's revelation as "disturbing and suspicious."

"My general impression is the documents are supposed to be kept five years after the transactions are closed," Canton said.

Party-list exec linked to Palace held for extortion

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Agents of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested an alleged ranking official of a party-list group who conned two police applicants during an entrapment operation in Noveleta, Cavite on Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

Police identified the arrested suspect as Catherine Canoy, 38, a resident of Cubao, Quezon City, who claimed to be the secretary general of the Anak party-list.

The group fielded candidates for the party-list elections last May with a platform anchored on helping retired policemen and military personnel.

Anak, which failed to get a seat in the House of Representatives, was also suspected to be one of the pary-list groups supported by Malacañang.

Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, CIDG-Calabarzon director, said Canoy was arrested based on the complaints of victims Riel Manalo and Frederick Rojas.

Belarma said Manalo and Rojas, who were aspiring to become members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), accused the suspect of extorting money from them before they took the examination given by the National Police Commission in November last year.

He said Canoy collected P23,000 from each of the victims supposedly to guarantee that they would pass the Napolcom entrance test for police applicants.

"After they passed the exams, Canoy asked for additional P5,000 from each of them. But when the victims refused, she warned them that she would hold their application to the PNP," Belarma told the INQUIRER.

Sensing that they were being duped, the victims reported the incident to the Napolcom officials who, in turn, sought the assistance of the CIDG to arrest the suspect. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

More village poll violence expected

DAGUPAN CITY—A CANDIDATE for village chief was shot dead in front of his furniture shop in Tayug, Pangasinan, on Tuesday even as more areas were placed under police watch in the run up to the barangay and youth elections on Oct. 29.

Tayug police chief Supt. Sotero Soriano Jr. said Jaime Tolentino, 57, who filed his candidacy for barangay captain of Carriedo in Tayug on Monday, died instantly after men aboard a motorcycle shot him at about 12:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Tolentino's 24-year-old son, Marlon, who was sawing a piece of wood in their shop, was wounded when a stray bullet hit his right leg.

Soriano said the older Tolentino was hit in various parts of his body. Six empty shells from a .45 cal. pistol were recovered from the crime scene.

"We are still trying to ascertain if this is a politically motivated killing," Soriano said.

The police have placed at least 15 villages in Isabela and Cagayan provinces under its watch list for the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Cagayan police director Senior Supt. Jude Wilson Santos said police were watching the villages of Liwari Norte and Barangay Dos in Enrile town and three villages in Tuguegarao City due to incidents of election-related violence in past elections.

In Isabela, at least 10 villages in San Pablo, Aurora, San Mariano and Delfin Albano towns have been classified as "areas of concern" in the run up to the Oct. 29 elections.

Isabela police director Senior Supt. Dominador Aquino Jr. said he has ordered police chiefs in these towns to be on "extra alert" to stop poll-related violence and clashes there.

In the Cordillera, police were watching 63 villages for possible cases of election-related violence.

Senior Supt. Noel Manabat, deputy regional director for operations of the Cordillera police, said these villages in Abra, Mt. Province, Benguet and Ifugao have been placed under their election watch areas (EWA) based on cases of political violence in the 2004 and 2007 elections. *Gabriel Cardiñoza, Villamor Visaya Jr., Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

CANDIDATES for barangay elections start filing their certificates of candidacy.
RODEL ROTON

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The old, old woman of Mt. Banahaw

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Sariaya, Quezon

WITH VEGETABLES she herself grows in the cool climate of Mount Banahaw in Quezon for her daily sustenance, Filomena Remojo Relativo is only three years short of hitting the century mark.

Her crouched body and her face wrinkled from years of hard work, the old woman still tends her farm planted with vegetables, medicinal herbs and ornamentals.

"I'm not deaf. I can still hear you loud and clear," Relativo shouts in Filipino in jest during the interview in her house in Barangay Mamala Uno at Banahaw's base, also known as an abode of divine spirits.

"I can still also sew clothes using the old sewing machine," she boasts to draw attention to her unfailing eyesight.

Asked about her birth date, Relativo instantly mentions 1910 but grasps for other details. Her daughter-in-law butts in and says July 14.

She was born and raised in Mamala, and married Leon who died seven years ago, leaving her with eight children, two of them already dead.

Banahaw has been her lifetime companion, and she enjoys her simple existence, feeding body and soul with the fruits of labor from the mountain's bosom. "Mt. Banahaw is a part of my life. This is where I live and this is where I will meet my Creator," she says.

She shows a faded photo of herself when she was 14 years old with sister-in-law Leonora. "I could no longer remember the occasion, but I'm sure it was a special event because we have a souvenir photo," she says.

FILOMENA Remojo Relativo, 97, is a picture of serenity and contentment in her simple life at the foot of Mount Banahaw in Sariaya, Quezon.

PHOTOS BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

Daily grind

Relativo starts her daily grind when the cocks crow in the first light of day.

After sipping a cup of hot coffee, she grabs her bolo still soiled from the previous day's farming, and heads off to her farm nearby. She immerses herself in the ornamental plants, medicinal herbs, bananas, onions, eggplants, bell peppers, lettuces and many other vegetable crops.

Relativo recalls how patrolling Army soldiers and New People's Army members often passed by her house before daybreak at the height of the communist insurgency, when Banahaw used to be the rebels' mountain lair. "They greet me and leave me alone. I was not afraid of them, unlike the way I feared Japanese soldiers during the war," she says.

When her husband was jailed by Japanese soldiers at the garrison in the town proper during World War II, she often failed to deliver his food out of fear, she says. "The moment Japanese soldier barks out, 'Kura! Kura!' I always scampered in fear and ran back home, failing to give the food to my husband."

Power breakfast

At around 7 a.m., Relativo returns to the house for a "special" peasant breakfast she will prepare herself. Her menu contains steaming rice with *bulanglang* (boiled vegetable mix), fresh onions soured with vinegar, and fried dried fish dipped in chopped fresh tomatoes.

"That breakfast for me is the prefect combination. I can work all day in the farm," she says.

She abhors waking up late when the sun is already out. "People, especially farmers, should start the day early. The cool mountain breeze in the early morning is conducive to farming and also to our health."

After the power breakfast, Relativo returns to her farm and continues to work till noon.

After a hearty lunch of another concoction of fresh vegetables, she takes a two-hour siesta to recharge her body, which still surprisingly remains fit and healthy despite two surgeries on her appendix and cervix.

"I seldom consult a doctor. The last time I saw one to replenish my blood, I became weak after the transfusion. Despite the rigor of daily farming chores, my blood pressure is always normal. I also eat meat but not that often," she says.

Relativo's son Romulo, 70, a retired public elementary school principal, says her mother can still help other farmers in planting rice. "It's a backbreaking task, but she's up to it. As a matter of fact, she enjoys the hard work," he said.

Romulo also chose to become a full-time farmer after he retired five years ago.

Most of the time, Relativo says family members have to shout for her to come home because it's already late. "And sometimes, when I'm too busy attending to my crops and ornamental flowers, they have to fetch me and force me to call it a day," she says.

Natural farming

An advocate of natural farming since she started cultivating the bosom of Banahaw, she admits to using commercial fertilizers sometimes. "But we have to return to the basic natural farming. It's good for the soil and human health," she said. "The other day, I cut grass around my farm. Once dried, I will use it as natural fertilizer."

Relativo enjoys a swig of "*lambanog*" (native coconut-based liquor) on special occasions.

She considers her pack of "Magkaibigan," which contains 30 pieces of native cigarette, her best buddy. She consumes a pack every two days, to which her family used to pester her to quit smoking for health reason.

"I just laugh at them. My body is different from them," she says.

The old woman, who finished Grade 4, denies having any secret to her long and healthy life. She offers this advice: "Pray to the Lord not for some material gains but for a strong, wholesome and healthy life. This, I sincerely pray several times a day."

Romulo says he is now busy gathering the names of every member of the clan for a family tree in preparation for her mother's centennial. "I'm having a hard time even in listing the names of all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, but it's fun. Having a big family has its own special reward," he says.

THE 97-YEAR-OLD great grandmother attends to her onion plants in her farm.

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Puno is impeach brains, says Pablo Garcia

From page A1

meant to prevent De Venecia from filing a stronger impeachment case against Ms Arroyo in the event of a falling-out.

"[The impeachment complaint] was really done to preempt the Speaker," Garcia said. "Maybe they were not serious about it. Maybe they just wanted to send a message to the President that the forces of Joe (De Venecia) were moving."

Garcia said the Puno faction might have been expecting retaliation from the Speaker in the wake of the ethics case Pulido had also filed against De Venecia.

Threat to bolt Kampi

Garcia was apparently so appalled by the supposed Puno gambit that he threatened to bolt the party.

"We will resign from Kampi," he said. "[The issue] will lead to the breakup of Kampi between our group and the group responsible for the filing of the impeachment [complaint]. They now try to foment intrigues. The other faction is destroying the party."

But Garcia, who commands the loyalty of a good number of Kampi congressmen, made it clear that he would remain loyal to Ms Arroyo in case of a breakup.

He said the ploy was now "backfiring" on Ms Arroyo, who had supposedly now been placed in a negative light.

"They're making their own problem," Garcia said.

"They filed the impeachment [complaint] without consulting us. They did not anticipate the public reaction. People saw through the whole thing—that it was a ploy to preempt the filing of a substantial impeachment complaint," he said.

Wishful thinking

The INQUIRER was unable to reach Puno for comment. Repeated calls to his phone went unanswered.

On Monday, Puno downplayed the new attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo.

In a talk with reporters in Camp Crame, Puno said impeachment in the House of Representatives was a "numbers game" that the administration could handily win.

He said any effort to push Ms Arroyo's impeachment would be for naught:

"Any kind of impeachment will not prosper. It's a numbers game and there are only 30 members from the opposition in the House. So there is wishful thinking that they can break up the administration."

Puno also said he did not expect the public to take to the streets to support the impeachment complaint.

'Not from us'

"I think the people have had enough of rallies," he said. "I doubt there will be any [rallies]. The impeachment [complaint] will die a natural death. I hope that soon, the legislators will go back to legislating."

In naming Puno, Garcia also sought to allay suspicion that the Pulido complaint was the brainchild of his own faction in Kampi.

"It was not from the Villafuerte group. That's categorical. You can be sure that it did not come from us," he said.

Asked why Puno would float a "weak" impeachment complaint that appeared to target De Venecia, his own candidate for Speaker, Garcia said: "I think there was a falling-out. Between the President and the Speaker, I think Ronnie Puno will side with the President."

Garcia said the public should distinguish between the Villafuerte and Puno factions in analyzing what he called the "multilayered" issue of the Pulido complaint: "Ronnie Puno worked against us in the last speakership fight. He was with De Venecia."

'Mockery'

At the Makati City Hall, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV assailed the impeachment complaint filed by Pulido, his former lawyer.

"I don't know his actual motive is, but for my standpoint, it is a mockery ... of the impeachment process," the detained senator told reporters just before yesterday's hearing of his coup d'etat case before a Makati court.

"While [impeaching the President] has been my advocacy, I don't want it under these circumstances. According to one congressman, the complaint was not worth the paper it was written on," he said.

Trillanes said he parted ways with Pulido in September 2006 and was no longer on speaking terms with the latter.

Pulido served as Trillanes' lawyer when he was charged, along with several other junior officers, with leading the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003.

The senator said it was Pulido who resigned as the lawyer of the self-styled "Magdalo" group.

But he would not say what had caused the split. "You'll have to ask him that," Trillanes said.

Asked if he thought Pulido had colluded with Malacañang to abort all chances of Ms Arroyo getting impeached, Trillanes said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

He later added: "It is possible. It is highly possible."

Trillanes suggested that Pulido had lost some credibility in making the move.

"I wish him luck. I really hope he succeeds in his career after this," the senator said. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and DJ Yap*

JDV: Impeach rap aims to remove me, to punish my son

From page A1

plaint was directed, not against Ms Arroyo, but against him, as a result of his son's disclosures on the scandal-ridden $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

It's in "retaliation to what my son did," he said, pointing out that "60 percent" of the two-page complaint was aimed at him.

"There is a dark conspiracy hovering over us," he added.

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, owner of Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had made an unsolicited proposal for the NBN project that was eventually awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

He told the Senate committees looking into the matter that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had tried to bully him to "back off" from the deal.

Palace 'underlings'

De Venecia said the conspirators were "underlings" of Malacañang. But he did not name any of them.

"We don't know who the mastermind is, but obviously, they want to remove me and punish me and my son," he said.

But he added: "I don't think the President knows about this. She's a righteous president."

Only on Tuesday, De Venecia and 24 other House leaders and members of the Lakas-CMD met with Ms Arroyo in Malacañang and vowed to keep the ruling coalition intact.

According to two administration lawmakers, delaying the transmittal of the Pulido complaint to the justice committee is actually a political strategy that would work to De Venecia's advantage.

To counterattack

Assuming that De Venecia is indeed in conflict with the President, sitting on the "weak" complaint would allow him to launch a "counterattack" in the form of a stronger impeachment case against her, the two lawmakers told the INQUIRER in separate interviews.

Under the rules, the Speaker has 10 session days to include an impeachment complaint in the order of business, through the committee on rules.

The House has another three session days to refer the case to the justice committee, which will determine if it is sufficient in form and substance.

Once the complaint reaches the justice committee, no other impeachment complaint may be filed against the same official within a year.

The prospect of yearlong immunity for Ms Arroyo will not favor De Venecia in case of a full-blown war with her, said one of the majority lawmakers who declined to be named.

That means he can no longer threaten Ms Arroyo with a "real" impeachment complaint in the event that her allies in the House move to unseat him, the source said.

Ace up his sleeve

Opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro agreed that delaying the referral of the Pulido complaint to the justice committee was an "ace" up De Venecia's sleeve.

De Venecia acknowledged that he would be suspected of cooking up a political counterattack in exhausting the 10 session days given to him to include the Pulido complaint in the order of business. He said the deadline was Nov. 11.

But whether an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo is "weak or strong," it will eventually be decided by numbers, he said.

According to the Speaker, the "dark conspiracy" is evident in the three cases filed by Pulido against him and his son in a span of 10 days. A fourth case, the impeachment complaint, "clearly targeted me," he said.

The first case was the one filed before the House ethics committee questioning the propriety and legality of Joey de Venecia's active interest in the NBN project. It later found a version against the De Venecias before the Ombudsman.

"Something is rotten in Denmark," the Speaker said, paraphrasing a line from Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

Delay as opportunity

House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said the delay in the referral of the Pulido complaint to the justice committee would give the opposition a chance to strengthen the case.

The San Juan lawmaker said De Venecia could wait for the results of both the Senate and the House inquiries into the NBN-ZTE deal in the meantime.

"Yes, [the delay] is an opportunity for us," Zamora said. "But it depends on how we will use that opportunity to strengthen the impeachment complaint."

Zamora said the House opposition would be closely watching the Senate when it resumes its inquiry on Oct. 25. He said whatever evidence that might be gathered could strengthen the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

He said he and his colleagues would also be on the lookout for similar evidence from the House's own inquiry.

"Remember that [Nueva Ecija Rep.] Carlos Padilla's privilege speech [on the NBN-ZTE controversy] was referred to three committees," he said, adding that there would be enough time for these House committees to conduct hearings that could yield useful information.

Both Pulido and Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis, who endorsed the complaint, had expressed willingness to work for the strengthening of their case against Ms Arroyo.

Under House rules, amendments to strengthen the complaint may be introduced only before the charge sheet is referred to the ethics committee.

Numbers game

Like De Venecia, Zamora said that in the end, it would still be a numbers game both at the justice committee and at the plenary.

"In the real world, even an unsubstantial impeachment complaint may be transmitted to the Senate if it has enough signatures," he said.

An impeachment complaint needs the signatures of 80 members of the House for it to be transmitted to the Senate, which will hear the case.

Will the minority's 20 or so members affix their signatures to the impeachment complaint if 60 administration and independent lawmakers endorse it?

"[On that we] will have to wait and see," Zamora said.

Purported bribe attempts

De Venecia said a major consideration for not rushing the referral of the Pulido complaint was the supposed bribe attempts of Francis Ver, deputy secretary general of Ms Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

Ver had purportedly offered P1 million to P2 million to opposition Representatives Crispin Beltran and Dan Fernandez in exchange for endorsing the complaint.

De Venecia has ordered an investigation of the bribery allegations, which Ver denied. *(Story on Page A1)*

'We'll never know'

In another interview on the sidelines of the launching of the Millennium Development Goal Report at the Manila Hotel, De Venecia was noncommittal about whether Ms Arroyo's House allies would throw out the latest impeachment complaint against her.

Again turning literary, he declared: "We'll never know ... As the poem 'Sohrab and Rustum' said, 'Only the event will teach us in its hour.'"

He also pointed out that Ms Arroyo's allies in the House numbered 215 out of 240 members.

Pressed why he could not say for sure that the Pulido complaint would be thrown out, De Venecia said he could not "speak like the Pope" and that he was "not God."

Asked whether the strain between Kampi and Lakas was the reason behind his noncommittal stance, he said he did not want to preempt the actions of the justice committee.

House solid for GMA

De Venecia, however, aired the assurance that the House was "solid for the President" and "solid for JDV."

If it were not so, he said with a laugh, he would have long been ousted: *"Kung hindi* solid, *matagal na akong wala."*

"It means they want to keep the partnership strong and stable," he added.

But when asked whether this meant that the Pulido complaint would not prosper in the House, De Venecia said: "Well, you can never say that. If there is overwhelming evidence ... But there is none, and the economy is doing well, and [the President] seems to enjoy the accolade of the international community."

Still, he pointed out that the Philippines' economic gains "must filter to the masses."

Otherwise, he said, these gains would be "useless."

Kampi support

De Venecia also said he had the support of the majority, or 95 percent, of Kampi led by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

"It's the 5 percent that's against me, but they're very noisy," he said.

The Speaker also said he would transmit the Pulido complaint to the justice committee at "the proper time," after Ver's supposed bribery attempts had been investigated. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

PCGG chair's P10-M advances may lead to his resignation

From page A1

Sabio for cash advances that he allegedly got from a dummy corporation set up by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The cash advances, purportedly made over nine months in 2006 in the form of several checks issued by Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp., were not part of official PCGG transactions, according to PAGC documents.

On Tuesday, Sabio said he had been informed about the PAGC inquiry.

"I can defend myself," Sabio said. He declined to elaborate.

PCGG sources assailed Sabio for his failure to explain what he did with the cash advances.

'Payanig sa Pasig' property

Sabio, a director of Mid-Pasig Land, along with PCGG Commissioners Ricardo Abcede and Tereso Javier, was due to receive P50.35 million from the firm representing P33.4 million in rental income on the "Payanig sa Pasig" property and P16.9 million in proceeds from the sale of A. Soriano Corp. shares.

The 18.4-hectare Payanig sa Pasig on Ortigas Avenue is one of the properties sequestered by the PCGG after it was formed following the 1986 People Power revolution to investigate and recover the stolen wealth of Marcos, his family and associates.

According to the PAGC, official remittances to the PCGG made on Nov. 27, 2006, amounted only to P40 million while P10.35 million was disbursed directly to Sabio.

Questionable transactions

Sabio's questionable transactions in 2006 allegedly started on Feb. 14 and lasted through Oct. 3.

The amounts were reflected as cash advances by Sabio as Mid-Pasig Land director, as follows: P500,000 (Feb. 14); P1 million (March 8); P2 million (March 16); P500,000 (April 21); and P700,000 (May 3).

Sabio's signature appeared on the vouchers on each of the checks except for the Feb. 14 payment, which was allegedly received by a PCGG cashier but entered into the agency's accounting book.

On the sale of the A. Soriano Corp. shares, Sabio made five transactions at his request and reflected them as partial remittances to the PCGG, including P1.3 million (May 25); P1 million (June 30); P500,000 (Aug. 18); P1 million (Sept. &); and P1.5 million (Oct. 3).

Official remittances

The cash advances to Sabio between February and May were also lumped as part of the official remittances to the National Treasury, which allowed Mid-Pasig Land to deduct P10.35 million from the official remittance on the sale of the A. Soriano shares.

PCGG sources said the transactions were uncovered in November when Mid-Pasig Land made its official remittances to the PCGG.

In April 2007, the PAGC asked Independent Realty Corp., Mid-Pasig Land's mother company, to submit the pertinent documents to it.

Sabio has yet to reply to an INQUIRER request for comment.

Last year, Sabio was summoned before a Senate committee looking into alleged irregularities in the PCGG's handling of Philcomsat Holdings Corp., one of the commission's largest sequestered corporations, but he declined to answer questions and was cited in contempt.

PAGC declines comment

The PAGC yesterday refused to confirm reports that it was investigating Sabio. The agency observes a nondisclosure policy on ongoing investigations, said PAGC Director Chat Alvarado.

"We take this very seriously," Alvarado said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"We have in fact dismissed investigators for premature disclosures. Each of us here in PAGC strictly abide each of our policies as we intend to "walk the talk," he added.

Dolphins Puerto Princesa's splashy treat

From page A1

Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who on Wednesday led the launching of the new tours, was joined by over a hundred guests on an outrigger boat in the waters off Puerto Princesa. Over a hundred bottle-nosed dolphins made sure they would not be disappointed, bobbing in and out of the water.

Spotters

According to boat operator Toto Cayabo, tour operators "guarantee" each tour—or will give the money back if a visitor doesn't see any dolphin during the trip. A tour is initially being offered at a promotional rate of P750 per person.

"We have spotters who tell us where to go. And these dolphins don't leave this place anymore. They just roam around," Cayabo said.

Hagedorn vowed to support the new tourism attraction, donating several cell phone units to Cayabo's spotters, most of whom are also smalltime fishermen.

The spotters take a cut from the fee collected by tour operators, the INQUIRER learned.

"This is the kind of development that we want to promote in Puerto Princesa, not the ones that are destructive to the environment," said Hagedorn, whose administration has banned mining projects in the city.

Also whale sharks

Felisa Torres, head of the City Tourism Council, said the local tourism operators would also soon launch a campaign promoting whale shark watching as an additional attraction.

Puerto Princesa is best known for natural attractions like its 2-km "underground river," which runs beneath limestone formations found north of the city. *Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DOH to regulate infant milk ads

With SC rebuff, gov't to tighten checks on milk firms' health claims

DESPITE THE SUPREME COURT'S LIFTING OF the ban on infant formula milk advertisements, the health department said such ads would still go through stringent checks by a government inter-agency committee.

With the high court invalidating the section of the Milk Code's revised implementing rules and regulations (RIRR) prohibiting milk companies from advertising false health claims for their products, the committee will now have to scrutinize the infant milk ads more closely, the Department of Health said.

"We'll just be a little more deliberate this time. If before, they went through without the IAC really checking, this time we have to really examine [them]," said health undersecretary Alex Padilla.

The DOH chairs the inter-agency committee through the Bureau of Food and Drug. The Department of Justice and the Department of Trade and Industry make up the rest of the committee membership.

Padilla said it is the IAC's role to determine the truthfulness of the milk ads and examine them for false nutritional health claims about their milk products.

Ines Fernandez, speaking for the Arugaan breastfeeding group, criticized the SC decision as being protective of milk sales of infant formula milk.

She said the ban would have aligned the Philippines with international standards on infant formula milk.

She said the Codex Alimentarius, the internationally recognized standards and guidelines relating to food production and safety, has already disallowed nutritional health claims about formula milk. The Codex Alimentarius was established by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Supreme Court last Tuesday nullified three sections of the Milk Code's RIRR, including the DOH's absolute prohibition on infant formula ads. *Beverly T. Natividad*

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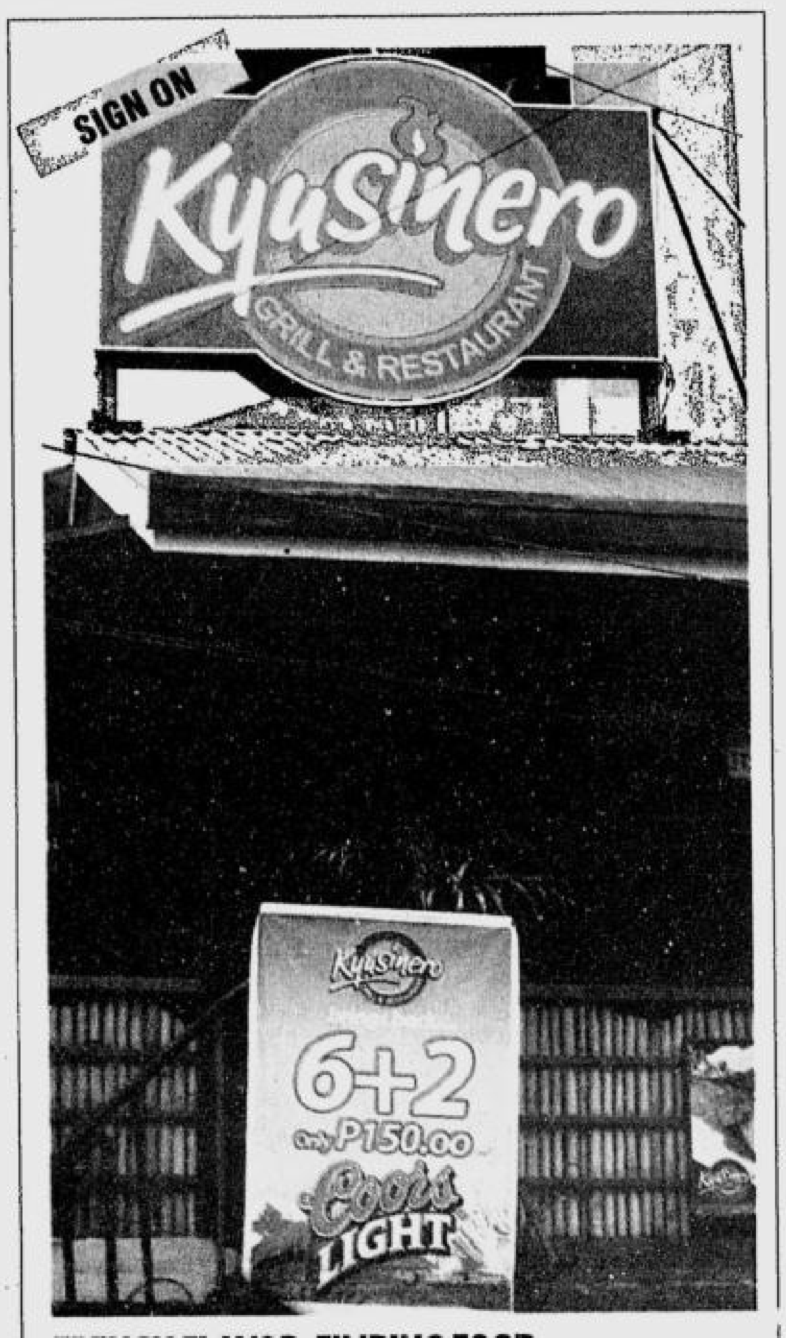
Hold that garbage, says MMDA

Rizal row leads to suspension of trash collection; alternate sites mulled



FRENCH FLAVOR, FILIPINO FOOD
Restaurant sign along Matalino Street, UP Village in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

By DJ Yap and Kristine L. Alave

IF THE TRASH COLLECTOR IS NOT MAKING his usual rounds in your neighborhood lately, don't be surprised.

Just keep your garbage in the house in the meantime and pray that the row over the Rodriguez landfill will soon be resolved, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday.

The MMDA has advised Metro Manila residents to hold on to their trash as the agency tries to find a solution to the garbage problem following the closure of both landfills in Rodriguez town in Rizal province.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the agency was in the process of meeting with representatives of dump operators in the hope of finding one that would accept Metro Manila's garbage. The metropolis dumps 8,000 cubic meters of garbage daily, based on MMDA data.

He said they were still in talks with operators of landfills in Rodriguez, Rizal; Payatas, Quezon City; Pier 18 in Manila; Obando, Bulacan and San Fernando, Pampanga.

Earlier this week, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III ordered the closure of the 14-hectare landfill in Rodriguez town, saying it was already full. He ordered the diversion of garbage to the adjacent 19-hectare landfill.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo shut down the smaller landfill in compliance with Ynares' order, but later said that he would not allow dump trucks into the newer site because it did not secure the necessary permits from his office.

The 14-hectare landfill accommodates the trash produced by Metro Manila's 16 cities and lone municipality. With its closure, all the garbage has been diverted to the newer landfill which, according to Ynares, is exclusively for Rizal's use.

Nacianceno appealed for more patience from the public following reports that garbage collection in some cities, including Caloocan and Makati, had ceased. By contrast, the situation is relatively normal in cities like Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, he said.

"The good news is that we're not seeing garbage being left uncollected in the streets," he said.

According to him, the MMDA was still waiting for developments in the dispute between Cuerpo and Ynares.

"We have two very responsible officials in Mayor Cuerpo and Governor Ynares. So we hope the problem will be solved soon," Nacianceno said.

Grumbles were heard anew in Makati City, where officials said garbage remain uncollected since Monday.

"We have no idea where to unload the garbage," the city's environmental services head, Danilo Villas, said.

Villas presided over a meeting of the Association of Metro Manila Environment Officers, which he heads, to discuss the impact of the closure of the Rodriguez dump.

"The environmental officers were one in saying that the MMDA should address this problem immediately," he said.

Ynares, meanwhile, convened a crisis committee to handle the issue and to convince Rodriguez officials to open the newer landfill.

According to him, the old dump was saturated and posed a risk to nearby properties and residents.

Makati court sets start of Leviste trial on Oct. 24

By DJ Yap

TEN MONTHS AFTER HIS AIDE, Rafael de las Alas, was found dead in his office in Makati, former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste, who was charged with murder, will finally go on trial.

The Makati judge hearing Leviste's case yesterday conducted the pre-trial conference and set weekly dates for the presentation of the defense evidence from Oct. 24 until Dec. 12.

The prosecution, led by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, had indicated that they would no longer present any evidence before Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150, as they had already done so during the bail hearing.

Leviste, who stands accused of killing De las Alas on Jan. 12, is set to begin his defense on Oct. 24 with his lawyers submitting a list of eight names as witnesses.

Velasco said six of them were Leviste's employees who had rejected his attempts to get their testimony.

During the hearing intended to determine whether or not there was enough strong evidence to justify the denial of bail to Leviste, Velasco presented as witnesses police investigators, physicians, De las Alas' daughter Dina, and even Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Velasco said their testimonies were intended to show that there was premeditation, treachery and cruelty in the killing.

But Alameda ruled that the prosecution had failed to show sufficient evidence that the elements of the crime of murder were present, and granted Leviste bail on May 23. He also rejected Velasco's subsequent appeals.

Leviste's lawyers had questioned the reinvestigation conducted by the Department of Justice which resulted in the case against their client being upgraded from homicide to murder.

Col. Rolando Abadilla: Those were the days

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE COMPLAINT TO BE FILED in the Office of the Ombudsman against those allegedly involved in the ZTE NBN scandal is dead in the water.

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was on the right track in calling on Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to inhibit herself from the graft cases because of her perceived closeness to presidential spouse Mike Arroyo.

Baraquel's fears are valid considering that Gutierrez was Mike Arroyo's classmate at the Ateneo College of Law.

When Arroyo and I were still very close friends, we talked about the best possible replacement for Simeon Marcelo who resigned as Ombudsman supposedly because of ill health.

I was batting for Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño because of his track record of successfully prosecuting big criminal cases.

But Mike Arroyo said he would go for Gutierrez, then the justice undersecretary, because of her "unquestioned loyalty to us."

By "us," Arroyo was referring to himself and the President.

* * *

How time flies.

As a reporter during the martial law years, I miss those days because they were the golden years of law enforcement.

Although those were the dark days of repression, they were also the days of genuine law enforcement.

Nobody was above the law, except, of course, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his wife and their relatives.

I remember the time when then San Juan Mayor Joseph Estrada, who was close to Malacañang, was arrested and detained by the dreaded Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) for beating black and blue aspiring actor Rudy Fernandez.

I remember there were fewer kidnapping for ransom cases, bank robberies and murders as there are today in Metro Manila. The few that took place were immediately solved by the MISG.

I remember there were fewer abusive policemen, and extortionist judges and prosecutors (then called fiscals). They feared the MISG whose men arrested them right in their own turfs—police stations, courtrooms and fiscal's offices while in the act of receiving bribe money.

I remember the time when terrorism was nipped in the bud because of the MISG.

The MISG, headed by Col. Rolando Abadilla, made Metro Manila very safe.

For all the bad things they said about Abadilla, he was a highly efficient crime fighter and good soldier, although very much misunderstood.

I think no crime fighter of Abadilla's caliber will pass this way again.

Taguig hospital gets shot in the arm

By Julie M. Aurelio

IN A BID TO BOOST MEDICAL SERVICES for residents of Taguig City, doctors from high-end hospitals will soon provide free consultations at the Taguig District Hospital (TDH).

City Mayor Freddie Tiñga yesterday announced the implementation of a consultancy program at the TDH in partnership with St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical City and the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

"Healthcare is a basic service that needs to be delivered efficiently to our constituents. The city government is ensuring that we can provide better hospital services to the underprivileged," Tiñga said.

The city government recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the three hospitals, under which the TDH will contract the services of consultant doctors to head and supervise specialized departments like pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and internal medicine.

"This will not only beef up the hospital's manpower. It will also improve our services in vital medical specializations," city health officer Dr. Rolando Paac said.

"The consultancy program will enhance the quality of service delivery because each department will now be properly supervised and monitored," he added.

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Doctor's son in Mendez case a no-show at NBI

By Tina G. Santos and Jeannette I. Andrade

THE SON OF DR. FRANCISCO CRUZ, WHO took suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to a hospital where he was later declared dead on arrival, did not appear at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Instead, Miguel Francisco, Cruz's son, sent two lawyers who submitted to the bureau a letter invoking his right to remain silent.

Cruz earlier asked NBI officials to give his son, who is nicknamed "Mico," up to yesterday to present himself to the bureau.

"We advised our client to invoke his right to remain silent in connection with the reported 'hazing initiation,' 'mauling" and death of Mr. Mendez pursuant to Article III Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution," lawyer Abdiel Dan Fajardo, Mico's lawyer, told the NBI.

Mico reportedly brought Mendez to their house in Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City, before the latter was rushed by the older Cruz to the hospital.

The young Cruz is believed to be a member of the Sigma Rho, a fraternity at the University of the Philippines, which, according to the police, conducted the initiation rites in which Mendez is suspected to have died.

"That's his right," said lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, referring to Mico's nonappearance. "But it doesn't mean we're facing a blank wall as far as our investigation is concerned. We have other means of gathering evidence which we think would strengthen our case against those we deemed responsible for Mendez's death."

The older Cruz appeared at the bureau last week to give a sworn statement. The NBI, however, did not release any details about his statement.

Mendez was declared dead on arrival at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on Aug. 27. The findings of an autopsy report showed that he was beaten up badly because of numerous bruises found all over his body.

Meanwhile, Quezon City Police District investigators are eyeing the involvement of two lawyers in Mendez's death.

They said that they were able to establish that apart from some 15 UP students, most of them members of the Sigma Rho, two lawyers were also present during the initiation rites allegedly conducted in a house in Bonifacio Village, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Pingkian, Quezon City last Aug. 25 and 26.

Supt. Franklin Mabanag of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit asked the INQUIRER not to reveal the lawyers' names to avoid jeopardizing their operations.

All he would say was that the two were Sigma Rho members who graduated from the UP in 1996.

Mabanag added that most of the suspects they were investigating were from influential families with deep roots in the fraternity.

The UP Diliman student disciplinary tribunal (SDT) is still hearing the administrative charges filed by the Diliman Legal Office against 12 officers and members of the Sigma Rho fraternity for misconduct in the form of hazing and lack of respect for university rules governing students.

Among the respondents were four College of Law students: Cruz's son, Mico; Marcelino Veloso III; Keefe Eldrick de la Cruz and Juan Paolo Fajardo; National College of Public Administration and Governance students Ariel Paolo Ante; Jose Bernardo Clemente; Reginald Agustin and Ryan Baccay; College of Engineering student Andrew Selah de la Rosa and College of Social Sciences and Philosophy student Jose Andoni Santos.

The SDT, the INQUIRER learned, will summon the students to allow them to defend themselves before the body.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

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Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Various IT Requirements

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P2,050,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of various IT requirements*, as follows:

Project	IBM Lotus Domino Collaboration Express Software (100 clients)	425 units Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) for PC	Internet Service for 2008
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	600,000.00	850,000.00	600,000.00
Delivery Period	45 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract	45 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract	January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008
Cost of Bid Documents	P2,500.00	P2,500.00	P2,500.00
Pre-Bid Conference	October 22, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	October 24, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	October 26, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Bids	November 5, 2007 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	November 7, 2007 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	November 9, 2007 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Opening of Bids	November 5, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	November 7, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	November 9, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Venue of Activities	*NFA Board Room, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*	*NFA Board Room, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*	*NFA Board Room, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*

Bids received in excess of the ABC for each project shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various IT requirements* as stated above. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the form of *CASH* in the amount stated above per project. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No.	*(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone	*(928) 4102732*
e-mail address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2007)

DID YOU KNOW

ON OCT. 11, 1954, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Corazon Cojuangco were married at the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Pasay City. Aquino was a 21-year-old law student and reporter at the time. Then President Ramon Magsaysay stood as principal sponsor at the wedding. ***Cyril Bonabente, Inquirer Research***

METROBRIEFS

Nursing professor charged

A NURSING professor was charged in the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday with violation of Anti-Hazing Law for allegedly beating up a student who refused to join a fraternity's final initiation rites. Assistant City Prosecutor Viven Andino found probable cause to indict Cesar Dalilag of the Centro Escolar University based on a complaint filed by nursing student Benedicto Reyes Sta. Teresa III. The victim said he suffered serious injuries when he was mauled by Dalilag and other members of the Apo fraternity in March 2006, years after he decided not to join the group. A P20,000 bail was recommended by the assistant city prosecutor for the professor's temporary liberty. The victim also filed charges against other members of the fraternity but only Dalilag was'charged because the other accused were not properly identified, only through their aliases.

Allison W. Lopez

School to honor founder in homecoming

THE MANILA Science High School will honor Augusto Alzona, the father and founder of the country's first special science school by renaming the MSHS auditorium after him. The tribute to Alzona will be given on Saturday, Oct. 13, during the 2007 grand alumni homecoming to be held on the school grounds at the corner of Taft Avenue and Padre Faura Street. Pioneer students and teachers led by Eufemia Estrada will spearhead the historical renaming ceremony coinciding with Alzona's 100th birthday. Batch '82, this year's silver jubilarians, will be joined by classes '67, '72 and '77 in spearheading the event which starts at 1 p.m. The theme of this year's homecoming is "Keeping the Fire ..." in reference to efforts by the alumni, through the MaSci Foundation, to sustain the tradition of excellence which has characterized the school's 44 years of existence. The event will be highlighted by the blessing of the Alumni Room, a project of the MaSci Foundation and recognition rites for MaSci teachers of the Second Decade (1973-1982). For more information, call Eric Gonzales at 9114097/0918-9396337; Yette Morales at 6349007 and Regina Bartolome at 521-8416.

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WORLDBRIEFS

Life sentence for priest

LA PLATA, ARGENTINA—A Roman Catholic priest who compared himself to Jesus Christ was sentenced to life in prison on Tuesday for collaborating in murders, kidnappings and torture during Argentina's 1976-1983 military dictatorship. Christian Von Wernich, 69, was chaplain to the Buenos Aires police force. He used this position to obtain confessions from prisoners, which he then passed on to police who tortured them at secret detention centers. Von Wernich was convicted of complicity in seven murders, 31 cases of torture and 42 abductions in the Buenos Aires region *AFP*

2 women killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Foreign security guards killed two women on Tuesday, opening fire on their car in the center of the Iraqi capital and then speeding off "like gangsters," witnesses and Iraqi security officials said. Shopkeeper Ammar Fallah, a witness to the Tuesday's shooting, told AFP the guards, who were escorting a civilian convoy through the streets, signaled for a woman driving a white Oldsmobile car to pull over as they passed. "When she failed to do so they opened fire, killing her and the woman next to her," he said. "There were two children in the back seat but they were not harmed. The women were both shot in the head." *AFP*

German loses CIA torture case

WASHINGTON—A German citizen who says he was kidnapped, imprisoned and tortured overseas by the CIA lost his appeal on Tuesday when the Supreme Court refused to review a decision dismissing the case because it would expose state secrets. Attorneys for Khaled el-Masri, a German of Lebanese descent, argued in the high court appeal that his lawsuit did not depend on the disclosure of state secrets and that it should be allowed to go forward in US court. His case, in which Masri said he was abducted in Macedonia, flown to Afghanistan and tortured, has drawn worldwide attention to the CIA's extraordinary rendition program, in which terrorism suspects are sent from one foreign country to another for interrogation. *Reuters*

Turkey to send troops to N. Iraq

ANKARA—Turkey's prime minister gave the green light on Tuesday for possible military action in northern Iraq to confront Kurdish rebels there, drawing a warning from the United States, which fears wider regional instability. The ruling AK Party said it would request, as soon as possible, parliament's authorization for a major incursion into the mainly Kurdish region, Turkish private broadcasters CNN Turk and NTV reported. Washington urged Ankara to hold off on unilateral action, fearing it could destabilize Iraq's most peaceful area and potentially the wider region. *Reuters*

Taiwan unveils 2 new missiles

TAIPEI—TAIWAN FLEXED ITS MILITARY muscles on Wednesday, showing off two home-developed missiles in a rare parade seen as a reminder to China that it has the weaponry to defend itself.

In a televised National Day address, President Chen Shui-bian said China's own military build-up posed a threat to world peace, and urged it to withdraw nearly 1,000 ballistic and cruise missiles aimed at the island.

He also insisted Taiwan would continue to press for a referendum on joining the United Nations under its own name.

The military parade—the first in 16 years—came amid growing tensions between China and Taiwan, which split in 1949 after a civil war.

The most eye-catching weaponry on parade were the supersonic Hsiung-feng 3 ship-to-ship missile and the Tien Kung 3 anti-missile system.

The defense ministry also for the first time allowed a glimpse of a locally developed unmanned surveillance plane that could be used to gather battlefield data.

But the island's first cruise missile, the Hsiung-feng 2E—which because of its range could reach the Chinese mainland—was not on display following reported pressure from Taipei's main ally Washington.

Its specifications are not available, but analysts say it has a range of at least 600 kilometers and could be launched on land or at sea.

That could bring airports and missile bases in southeastern China, as well as cities such as Shanghai and Hong Kong, within striking distance.

Defense Minister Lee said last week the military display was intended as "a kind of effective deterrent so the Chinese communists will be aware Taiwan is tough."

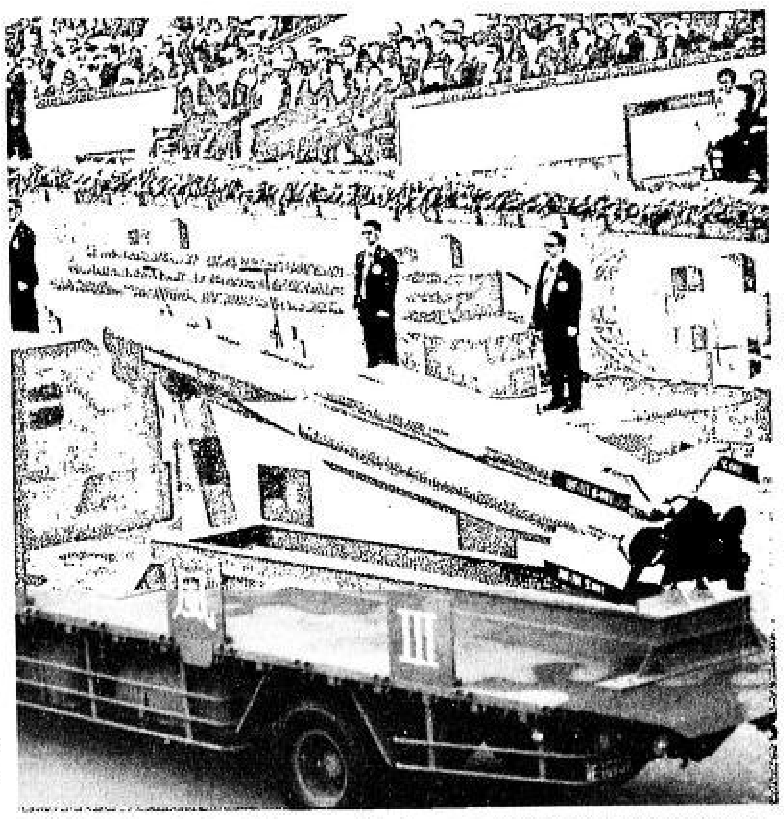
Amid tight security, US-made F-16 warplanes, French-made Mirage 2000-5s and home-grown fighters flew in formation as the parade got underway.

Hundreds of troops marched while elite marine and special operations units drove through the square around the presidential office in Taipei.

One unit that did not start was an elite squad of paratroopers, whose plan to land on the square using paragliders was canceled due to poor weather.

The National Day celebrations are the last under Chen, who is coming to the end of his second and final term.

He has repeatedly accused China of provoking Taiwan, which Beijing regards as part of its territory awaiting reunification. *AFP*



TAIWAN for the first time unveils a home-grown supersonic Hsiung-feng III (Brave Wind) ship-to-ship missile in Taipei, on Oct. 10, during its first military parade in 16 years.

AFP

250 dead in Pakistan fighting

MIRANSHAH—PAKISTANI JETS POUNDED militant hideouts in a troubled tribal region on Tuesday, taking the death toll to 250 from three of the heaviest days of fighting in the region since 2001.

The clashes have forced thousands to flee from Mir Ali, a town in lawless North Waziristan district that President Pervez Musharraf has previously pinpointed as a den of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Residents said dozens of people including women and children were killed in the latest air strikes in the rugged region bordering Afghanistan, but security officials insisted the dead were all Islamist fighters.

The unrest puts extra pressure on military ruler Musharraf—a key ally in the US-led "war on terror"—as he waits for the Supreme Court to legitimize his victory in Saturday's presidential election.

Chief military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad said at least 150 militants and 45 soldiers had been killed in battles that first erupted on Sunday after pro-Taliban rebels ambushed an Army convoy.

Another two troops died in a roadside bombing on Tuesday, a statement said.

"There were militant hideouts in the area near Mir Ali, aircraft targeted these hideouts on Tuesday but I don't have the number of casualties from that," Arshad told AFP.

Security officials in the northwestern city of Peshawar said another 50 militants were killed in Tuesday's airstrikes and a similar number were injured.

Residents, however, said around a dozen bombs dropped by two fighter jets exploded in the main bazaar in Khedar Khel.

"Some 50 people including women and children have died in the bombing," resident Noor Mohammad, 45, told AFP by telephone.

"The number of injured is even more." *AFP*

Israel's Olmert quizzed on suspected corruption

JERUSALEM—POLICE QUESTIONED Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Tuesday over suspected corruption just as he appeared to have won a reprieve from a Lebanon war inquiry key to his political future and peace moves with Palestinians.

At Olmert's home, police questioned him for five hours over suspicions that he tried, as finance minister in 2005, to tailor a sale offer for state-owned Bank Leumi to favor a friend, who ultimately never bid on Israel's second biggest bank.

Olmert has denied any wrongdoing in the case. After fraud squad investigators left the prime minister's residence, a police spokesperson said they would return there on Thursday.

The Israeli leader is under another criminal investigation, which he described as "needless," into accusations he dispensed favors in return for a discount on the purchase price of a Jerusalem home in 2004. Olmert bought the house for $1.2 million and media reports said $320,000 was knocked off the price.

Israel's attorney-general is also considering whether to order a probe into suspicions that Olmert, as trade minister in 2003, appointed cronies to a state business authority and helped secure funding for a factory represented by his ex-law partner. *Reuters*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Blackwater told to pay victims $136M

BAGHDAD—THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT WANTS US SECURITY firm Blackwater to pay $8 million in compensation to each of the families of 17 people killed in a shooting last month, a senior government source said on Tuesday.

The source said the figure was roughly in line with compensation paid by the Libyan government to the families of the 270 people killed in the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing over Scotland.

"We want them to pay $8 million for each family," the source told Reuters. "The same level as the compensation for the Lockerbie victims." Blackwater, which has a US State Department contract to protect its diplomats in Baghdad, has been told of the demand, the source said.

It was unclear what Blackwater's response was and the North Carolina-based firm did not immediately respond to e-mailed questions from Reuters.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack declined comment on how much compensation its contractor had been asked to pay for the Sept. 16 shootings.

"Obviously, the issue of what some refer to as bereavement payments—or a number of different names for them—is an issue of some sensitivity that we are taking a look at," McCormack told reporters.

"It is an issue that commonly turns up when you have security incidents in which there is a loss of life. As with other previous incidents throughout Iraq, civilian or military, we are taking a look at the issue."

There are four separate investigations into Blackwater's actions in Iraq and McCormack cautioned people about "jumping to conclusions" on the private security contractor's conduct.

Far more often, he said there was a loss of innocent life from the actions of al-Qaida and other extremist groups in Iraq than security contractors working for the US government.

Iraqi government spokesperson Ali al-Dabbagh said on Sunday the investigation set up by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki had found Blackwater "deliberately killed" the 17 people in the Sept. 16 shooting in western Baghdad.

Blackwater has said its guards responded lawfully to a hostile threat against a US State Department convoy it was guarding but Dabbagh said the investigation also had found there was no evidence they had come under fire.

The incident caused outrage among Iraqis who see security contractors like Blackwater as private armies that act with impunity.

Blackwater employs about 1,000 people in Iraq. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
WAN FU JEWELRY- BRANCH 1006 Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Rongrong Li Chinese	Operations Manager
CHARITY JEWELRY COLLECTION Stall S China City Gold Center, Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Shihui Li Chinese	Operations Manager
VERSATILE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES INC. 2635 Manor Bldg., Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila	Hussein Saad Abdel Salam Mohamed Egyptian	Interviewer and Consultant
ILYOSHINMUN INCORPORATED 3/F Goodwill Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yosep Lee Korean	Manager
NEO-TECH MEDICAL SYSTEMS CORP. Unit 2002 Platinum 1000, 16 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Myung Soon You Korean	Trading Manager
NEW HONG KONG GOLDEN PAVILLION RESTAURANT, INC. G/F Heritage Hotel, EDSA cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Hengxiang Guo Chinese	Assistant Executive Chef
LITTLE CHAMP MARKETING CO. LTD. Rm. 404 Fortune Palace, 665 J. Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Guitang Shi Chinese	Finance Manager
LITTLE CHAMP MARKETING CO. LTD. Rm. 404 Fortune Palace, 665 J. Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Wenyu Jiang Chinese	Assistant Manager
HARVARDIS EXPRESS TRAVEL AGENGY G/F Ligaya Bldg., Isidora Hills, Holy Spirit, Quezon City	Byung Hee Cha Korean	Marketing Manager
ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Edmundo Oscar Fernandez De Oliveira Pedotti Argentinian	Multi Lingual Customer Service Associate 1
ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Williams Roberto Fernandez De Oliveira Pedotti Argentinian	Multi Lingual Customer Service Associate 1
ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Manish Gulati Indian	Group Client Manager
ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Johnathan Stanley Clarke American	Operations Manager
VENUS COSMECEUTIC CORPORATION 29/F Ayala Life FGU Center Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Soonjung Youn Korean	Director
SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INC. West Unit 701 Tektite Tower, PSE Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Nobuyuki Fujiwara Japanese	Administrative Consultant
MITSUI & CO. LTD. 36/F GT Tower International, 6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Akihiko Ohira Japanese	Technical Mobile Manager
WALES INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MANILA INC. JCNV Bldg., Pasig Blvd. cor. Rosemary Lane, Pasig City	Kwang Jun Choi Korean	General Manager
MODERNPHIL CORP. Warehouse II, Armal Cmpd., C. Raymundo Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City	Po Lam Yeung British	General Manager
KM C&S PHILIPPINES INC. 6/F Polaris Bldg., 48 Polaris St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Chanjong Park Korean	Supervisor
JT SUCCESS TRADING INCORPORATED U-231 Seafront Garden, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Sanjay Madanlal Kalra Indian	Assistant Operation Manager
SUN LIFE OF CANADA (PHILIPPINES), INC. 12/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Gregory Stanhope Martin British	SVP Alternate Distribution

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI – October 11, 2007)

Hard-disk pioneers win Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM—ALBERT FERT of France and Peter Gruenberg of Germany won the Nobel Physics Prize on Tuesday for pioneering work that led to the miniaturized hard disk, one of the breakthroughs of modern information technology.

Fert, 69 and Gruenberg, 68, were lauded for their discovery in 1988 of a principle called giant magnetoresistance, or GMR.

GMR can "be considered one of the first real applications of the promising field of nanotechnology," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation.

Consistently diminishing electronic devices have become a matter of course in today's IT world, with smaller laptop computers and MP3 digital music players hitting the market every year.

Sensitive read-out heads are needed to be able to read data from compact hard disks.

FERT AFP

GRUENBERG AP

The first read-out head based on Fert and Gruenberg's technology was launched in 1997, and has been the standard in industry since then. More than 700 million hard drives pour off production lines each year as a result of the duo's work.

Gruenberg told Swedish Radio that winning the prize was "overwhelming, it is just great." But he said his work was slow to catch on.

"In the beginning, German firms did not take much notice of the invention," Gruenberg told reporters at the research center in the western German town of Juelich where he works.

"But that has changed. It is extremely satisfying to see that it is being used." Fert told AFP that "the discovery of GMR has had results that have gone way beyond what I expected."

Working independently, Fert and Gruenberg discovered that minute magnetic changes, in materials made of very thin layers of various metallic elements, lead to huge differences in electrical resistance.

In turn, these differences lead to changes in the current in the readout head, which scans a hard disk to spot the ones and zeroes in which the data is stored.

As a result, the readout head is able to read smaller and weaker magnetic areas—and this sensitivity means information can be packed more densely on the hard disk. *AFP*

Western envoys soften UN draft on Burma

UNITED NATIONS—EXPERTS and ambassadors of the UN Security Council will review on Wednesday a statement that deplores the military crackdown in Burma (Myanmar) and urges the ruling junta to stop "repressive measures" after China blocked a tougher condemnation.

The United States, Britain and France late Tuesday circulated the watered-down statement that, following resistance from China and other council members, notably replaces the word "condemn" by "strongly deplore."

The three Western powers submitted their first draft Friday after the council heard a report from UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari on his recent mission to Burma to defuse the crisis.

The new, non-binding text was worked out by experts of the 15-member council in bargaining sessions Monday and Tuesday.

The experts were to have a fresh meeting on the draft early Wednesday ahead of consultations by council ambassadors later in the day.

The new draft "strongly deplores the violent repression by the government of Burma of peaceful demonstrations, including the use of force against religious figures and institutions."

It urges the military regime "to cease all repressive measures, including the detention of protestors" and to release all political prisoners, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

It stresses the need for the regime "to engage without delay in a dialogue with leaders of all political and ethnic groups towards an inclusive national reconciliation process, with the direct support of the United Nations."

At least 13 people died and more than 2,100 were locked up when the ruling military junta cracked down on thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators led by Buddhist monks in September and early October.

The crackdown sparked worldwide outrage and brought demands for the country's military to give up or at least share power with civilians.

The newest Security Council text backs an early return of Gambari to Burma "to facilitate concrete actions and tangible results" and urges the authorities and all parties concerned "to cooperate fully with Mr. Gambari and to respond positively to his requests during his visits."

It notes the key role played by Burma's neighbors and its partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations "in urging restraint, calling for a peaceful transition to democracy, and supporting the good offices mission (of Gambari)."

Unlike a Security Council resolution, a so-called presidential statement requires the consent of all 15 members to be adopted. *AFP*

China now has 106 billionaires

SHANGHAI—CHINA NOW HAS 106 BILlionaires, seven times as many as last year, according to a list published on Wednesday that underlined the rapidly growing economic muscle of the Asian giant.

Yang Huiyan, a 26-year-old female property developer, topped the list with a net worth, mostly inherited, of 130 billion yuan ($17.3 billion), according to the website of Hurun Report, a Shanghai-based magazine.

The figure was up from just 15 billionaires in the 2006 list, a surge attributed in the report to sizzling economic growth, and in particular a steep rise in stock and property prices.

"We all know that China is developing very rapidly. But the speed is so fast that it shocked all of us. It's much faster than the US and Europe," Rupert Hoogewerf, Hurun Report's publisher, said in a statement.

The average wealth of the 800 people on Hurun's list is now $562 million, an increase of 104 percent from 2006, and it takes $105 million to make the list, the statement said.

This compared with the first list, nine years ago, which could only rank 50 people who each had six million dollars or more.

Among the people singled out by Hurun was 32-year-old Peng Xiaofeng, whose $5.3-billion fortune is based on LDK Solar, a manufacturer of solar panels. While not even on last year's list, he was now number six.

"These success stories are encouraging a large number of young Chinese to entrepreneurship," said Hoogewerf.

Hurun's list was released just two days after US magazine Forbes published its list of China's richest, which also put Yang in the lead.

Yang, a graduate of Ohio State University, is the daughter of Yeung Kwok Keung, the co-founder of Country Garden Holdings, a property development firm. *AFP*

BRITNEY Spears performs at the MTV Video Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sept. 9. Her new song, "Gimme More," is now a success on the music charts. AP

Britney Spears to be booked for hit-and-run

LOS ANGELES—A JUDGE ON TUESDAY ordered Britney Spears to be booked at a Los Angeles police station in her hit-and-run case stemming from a summer accident.

Commissioner Rebecca Omens said the 25-year-old pop star must be fingerprinted and photographed before Oct. 25, when she is required to appear in court.

Spears was charged last month with hit and run and driving without a valid license after she allegedly smashed her car into another in a parking lot in August.

Spears was not present for Tuesday's arraignment. She was represented by lawyer Michael Flanagan, who said his client "must go to any L.A. police station for fingerprints and mug shots."

"She will do that, but I don't know when," Flanagan told the celebrity website CelebTV.com.

The charges stem from an Aug. 6 parking-lot crash during which paparazzi filmed Spears steering her car into another vehicle as she tried to turn into a spot in a Studio City parking lot. After assessing the damage to her own car, a paparazzi video shows her walking away.

The owner of the other car, Kim Robard-Rifkin, filed a police report three days after the incident. She learned it was Spears who had hit her car through a video posted online.

Flanagan said Spears will pay for the damage to Robard-Rifkin's gray Mercedes-Benz.

"Britney wants to make sure (Robard-Rifkin) is compensated for any damages she may have and would like to figure out what those damages are," he said. *AP*

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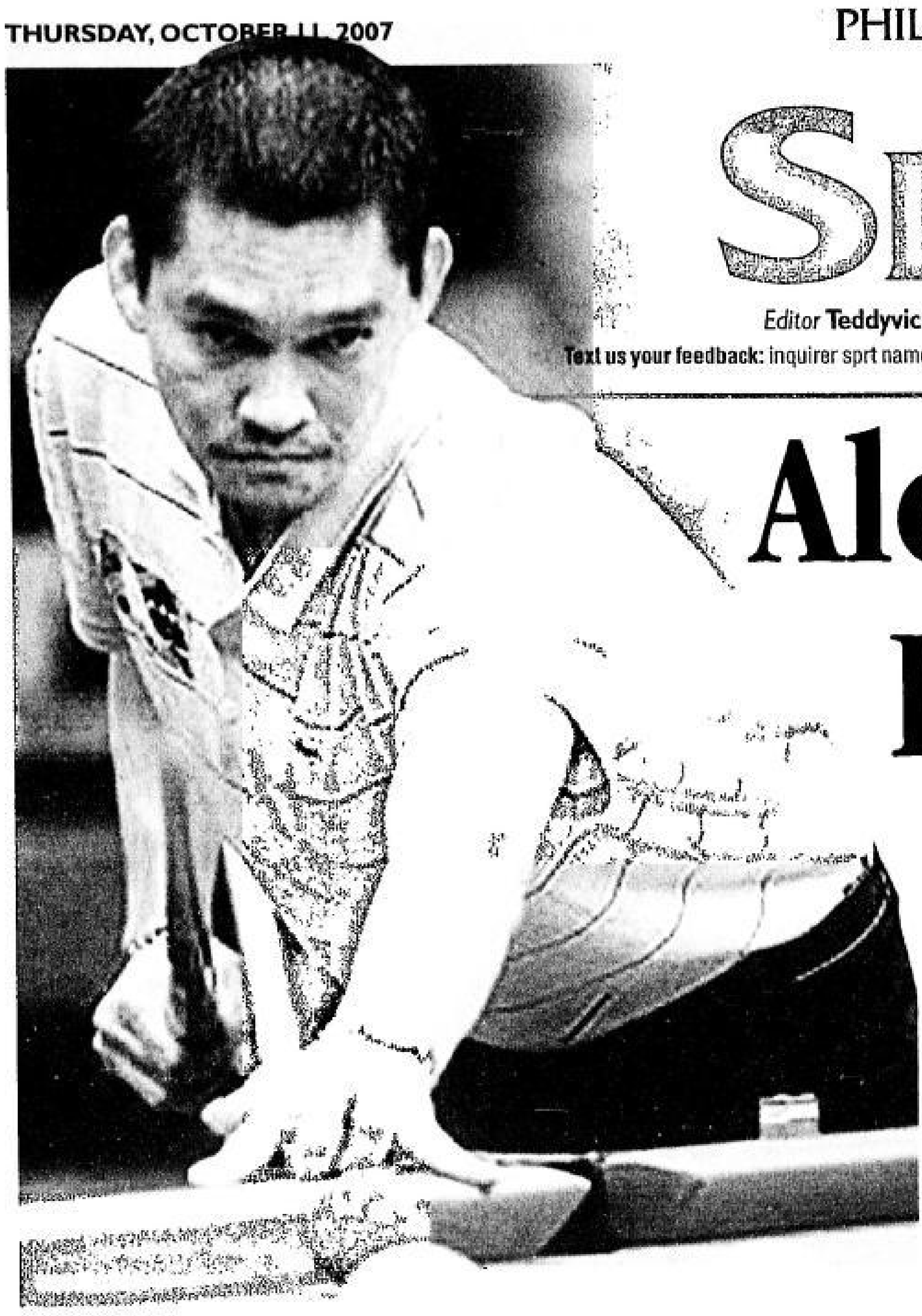
WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ Malarayat hosts Asean Golf Tour leg Oct. 17 /A23

Alcano leads 11-man RP World Pool cast



RONNIE Alcano, the defending champion will spearhead the country's charge in the World Pool Championship, where the 128-man field will gun for a lion's share of the $400,000 total purse. PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

ALTHOUGH A WORLD POWER IN pool, the Philippines will not have the most representatives when it hosts the World Pool Championship for the second straight year next month.

Former world champions Johnny Archer and the temperamental Earl Strickland will lead a 15-man US contingent that will aim to topple Ronnie Alcano and 11 other Filipinos in the event.

The draw was released yesterday during the official launch of the $400,000 event at the Sofitel Hotel with a total of 45 countries to be represented in the Nov. 3-11 tournament.

Defending champion Alcano leads the 128-man field, with the last eight slots to be known in several qualifying tournaments just days before the big dance.

Alcano, who turned back German Ralf Souquet in a title match to remember last year, will be seeing action in Group 1, which he is expected to hurdle easily considering the company he's in.

Souquet will be in Group 2, Taiwan's Wu Chia-Ching, the 2005 champ, is in Group 3, while Efren "the Magician" Reyes, whom Alcano beat in the semifinals last year, will head Group 6.

A "Group of Death" is where Francisco "Django" Bustamante belongs.

Bustamante, who has won several tournaments overseas but never this one, is in Group 9 along with American Corey Deuel, Germany's Oliver Ortmann and countryman Antonio Lining.

Strickland, who earned a reprimand of sorts from organizers last year for misbehaving during one of his matches, is in Group 14, while the mild-mannered Archer is in Group 16 together with former winner Chao Fong-pang of Taipei.

A cool $100,000 (around P4.6 million) is at stake for the champion.

The initial play calls for a round robin in all 16 groups using the race-to-9, winner breaks format with the top four players in each bracket advancing to the Round-of-64.

From there, it will be a one-miss-you-die affair in race-to-10 matches. The Last 16 up to the semifinals will be race-to-11, while the title match will be race-to-17.

Alex Pagulayan, the 2005 champion, is the top seed in Group 8. The other Filipinos are Dennis Orcollo, Lee Vann Corteza, Rodolfo Luat, Jeffrey de Luna, Marlon Manalo and Joven Bustamante.

No Big J for Air21 against Magnolia; Express to trade Arwind?

By Musong R. Castillo

Game Sunday (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6:30 p.m.—Air21 vs Magnolia

ROBERT JAWORSKI'S MUCH-ANTICipated return to the Philippine Basketball Association is not about to happen—at least for the coming Philippine Cup that opens Sunday.

The one-time MVP, many-time champion player and winner of four PBA titles as a player-coach has told Air21 team manager Lito Alvarez to let Bo Perasol handle the team as he takes care of personal business matters in the United States.

"He told me to have coach Bo continue handling the team because he (Perasol) is a good coach," Alvarez said. "He will just have to take care of some business matters in the States and that we will talk formally once he returns."

The Express collide with the Magnolia Beverage Masters, which took over from the San Miguel Beermen, in the lone opening game at 6:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Air21 had offered Jaworski a perfect vehicle to return to the PBA but the former Senator has yet to formally accept the coaching job.

Part of Air21's offer is a lot of business opportunities for Jaworski with the company, which, according to a source interviewed by the INQUIRER a couple of weeks back, could amount to millions of pesos.

"I just told him that any time he wants to handle the team, the job is his," Alvarez added.

Incidentally, Alvarez said that he is seriously weighing a proposal from Talk 'N Text to part with one of its centers in exchange for two Express forwards coming from among Arwind Santos, KG Canaleta and Ranidel de Ocampo.

But any trade involving Santos could include a few repercussions because the cager is currently facing a bigamy suit.

The sophomore forward received a fatherly advice from PBA officer-in-charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios on Tuesday, but that doesn't mean the promising cager is off the hook.

Santos was advised by Barrios to settle the issue out of court and avoid a morality issue that already cost the job of commissioner Noli Eala a couple of months back.

"Right now, it's not an apples to apples case," Barrios told the INQUIRER over the phone in explaining why his office is not treating the Santos case the way the league did on Eala's situation.

"Until proven guilty (of bigamy), Arwind's case is entirely different than that of ex-commissioner Eala," Barrios added. "But if it is ruled with finality (by the Supreme Court) then that's a different story."

Santos is facing two lawsuits from Karyn Maye Umayon—bigamy and lack of child support.

"The father in me told Arwind to immediately continue supporting his child," Barrios added.

SANTOS: Must settle bigamy case immediately

JAWORSKI: Job is his anytime he wants it

PNG revival all set, says Ramirez

THE REVIVAL OF THE Philippine National Games early next year is a done deal with the foundation for its implementation already laid down by the Philippine Sports Commission.

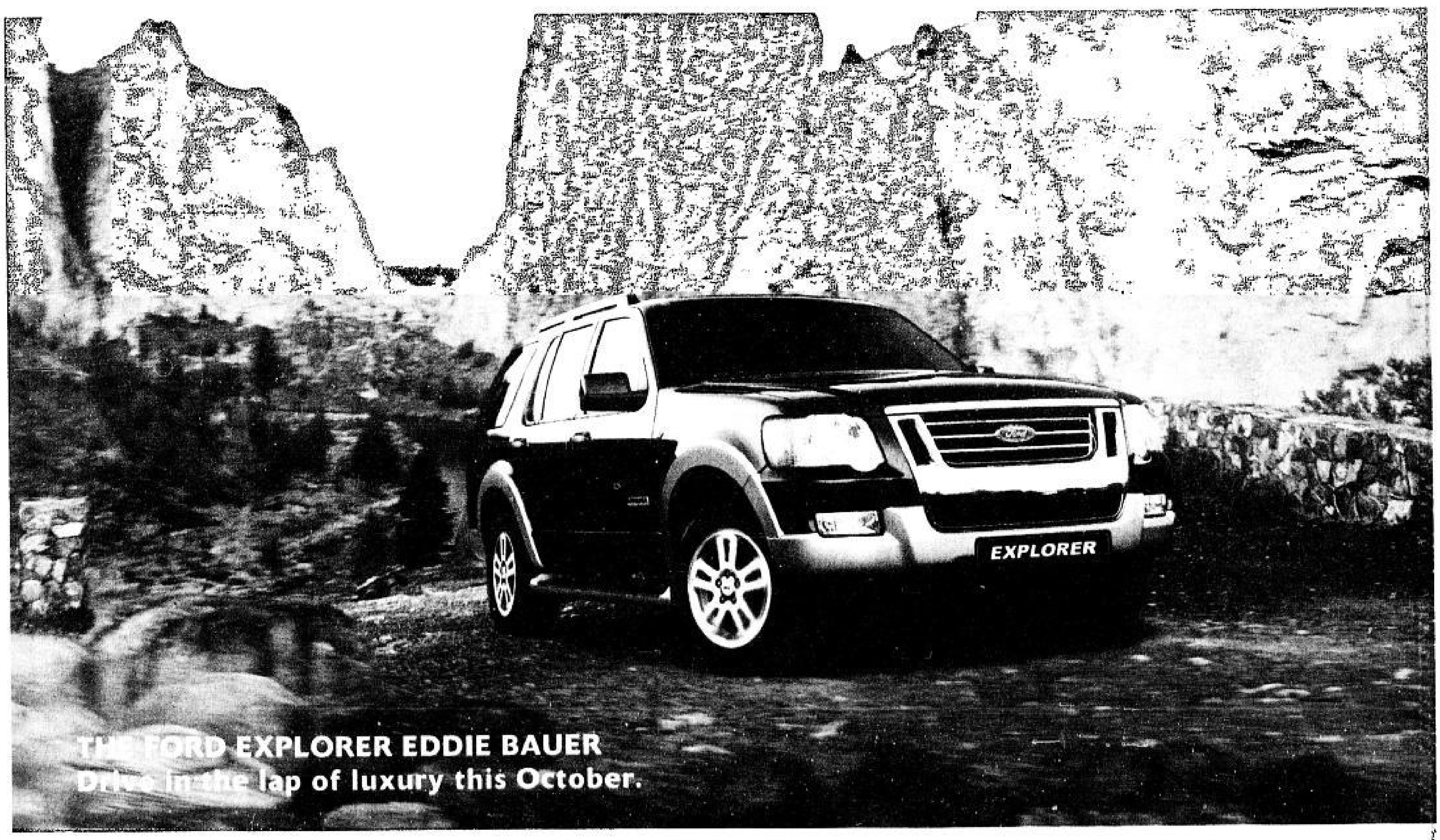
PSC chairman William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday announced he is set to meet with Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno within the month to finalize the schedule of the games, which serves as the government's talent identification vehicle for athletes above 18 years old.

The PNG revival comes on the heels of the staging this year of the Philippine Olympic Festival which the Philippine Olympic Committee is using to discover new talents from the provinces for the national team.

"The more tournaments the better," said Ramirez. "It (PNG) gives us the opportunity to find more potential athletes."

Shelved a decade ago, the PNG serves as the final test before promising athletes are elevated to the national team under the national unified sports program structure of the PSC.

June Navarro



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5 RP netters enter Asian 14-U quarters

ARJOHN DELA CRUZ AND BERNARDINE Siso used their familiarity with the turf to bundle out their seeded foreign rivals and lead the local charge in the Agra Cup-Asian 14-U Series at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday.

Six Filipinas also barged into the girls' quarterfinals led by third seed Shannine Mae Olivarez in this event organized by the Asian Tennis Federation.

Dela Cruz used a steady game to wear down second seed Aashsaam Goghari of Indonesia, 7-6 (2), 6-4, and set up a quarterfinal face-off with compatriot Leander Lazaro, who ended the run of the only Filipino seed Kyle Cordero.

Lazaro overcame a first-round jolt from Cordero before fashioning out a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

It was the second win by Dela Cruz over a visiting foe following his thrashing of German Maximilian Becker in the first round.

Siso also scored a second straight victory over a foreign rival as he ousted seventh seed Pearljit Singh of Malaysia, 6-2, 6-0.

He will take on yet another foreign bet in third seed Mohd Assri Merzuki of Malaysia, who won over compatriot Duzbionjit Singh, 6-2, 6-1.

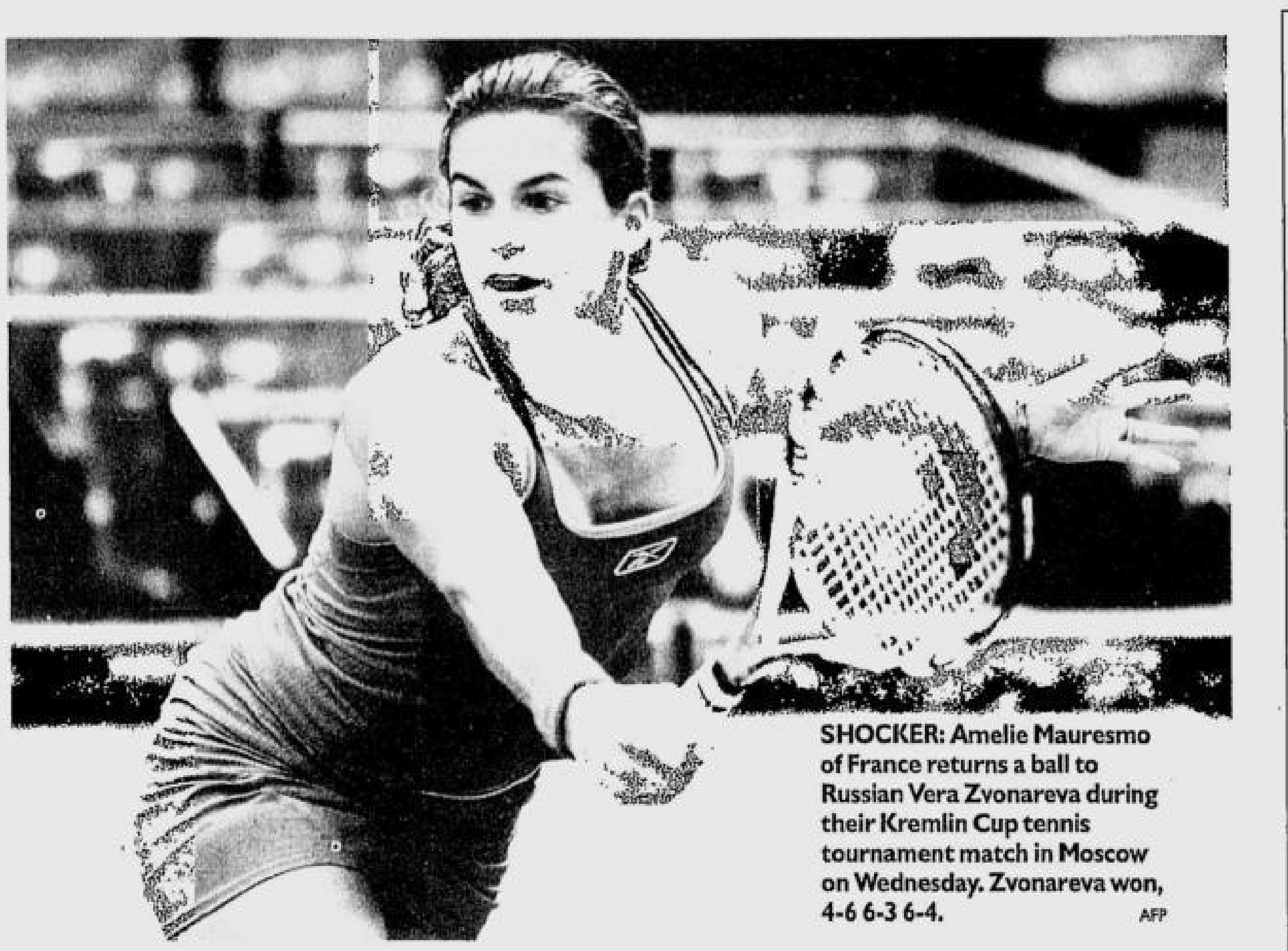
Twins Kim and Tim Polero also sustained their impressive runs with Kim hammering out a 6-1, 4-0 (retired) triumph over sixth-seeded Malaysian Wye Jones Saw and Tim eliminating compatriot Rafael Squillantini, 7-4, 6-3.

Kim Polero will next face first seed Ariez Elyaas Dean Hashsam, who kicked out Saudi Arabian Majed Alshaikh, 6-1, 6-0. Tim moved up against fourth seed Jason

Michael Lee of Malaysia, who bundled out Angelo Joseph Rivero, 6-3, 6-2.

In girls' action, Olivarez hurdled Crizzabelle Paulino, 6-2, 6-2, to reach the quarters against fellow Filipino Macy Gonzales, who advanced at the expense of compatriot Pailou Mojica, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Jonicka Martina Guba handily beat Patricia Joy Orteza, 6-0, 6-2, to arrange a duel against top seed Adelle Chia Boey of Malaysia. The Malaysian prevailed over Maika Jae Tanpoco, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



SHOCKER: Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a ball to Russian Vera Zvonareva during their Kremlin Cup tennis tournament match in Moscow on Wednesday. Zvonareva won, 4-6 6-3 6-4. AFP

Egyptian GM deals So 1st defeat in Jrs

Standings after round 7:

6.0 points—GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt); 5.5 points—GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic); 5.0 points—**IM Wesley So (Philippines)**, GM Wang Hao (China), GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), GM Parimarjan Negi (India), IM Avetik Grigoryan (Armenia), IM Gopal Narayanan (India)

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASter Wesley So yielded to Egyptian Grandmaster Ahmed Adly in their battle for the lead in the seventh round of the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia, late Tuesday.

Mishandling white, So tasted his first loss and remained at 5.0 points, trailing Adly, who claimed top spot with 6.0 points.

GM Victor Laznicka of Czech Republic gained second place with 5.5 points after beating Jayaram Ashwin of Armenia.

So, who also totes four wins and two draws, is slated to face top-seeded Chinese GM Wang Hao in the eighth round of the Boys' 20 and under class on Thursday.

The 13-round tournament takes a break Wednesday.

In the distaff side, WIM Vera Nebolsina of Russia split the point with IM Dronavilli Harika of India. WIM Nebolsina notched six wins and a draw to raise her total to 6.5 points in the Girls' 20 and under class.

Filipino Woman National Master Aices Salvador bested Nune Darbinyan of Armenia to climb to 4.0 points and share 15th to 26th places. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Canossa Academy-Lipa gains semifinals

CANOSSA ACADEMY-LIPA GAINED A SEMIFINALS BERTH BY BEATING arch rival De La Salle-Lipa, 25-12, 25-22, over the weekend in the Petron Treats Boys Volleyball League at the Colegio San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City. University of the East ousted UST, 25-11, 25-22, in the other semifinal to arrange a duel with Canossa. Angeles University Foundation ousted St. Anthony School, 25-11, 25-22. Ateneo bested Claret School QC, 25-20, 25-15, and clinch the last semis berth of the league supported by Shakey's, Toby's Sports, Dunkin Donuts, Mikasa and Asics. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

7 cockers lead LGBA series with 3 wins

THE SECOND LEG OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 7-stag derby series resumes today at the Araneta Coliseum with some 90 fights beginning at 1 p.m. Seven participants who tallied three wins to lead the competition: Nelson Uy, Boy Tanyag, Pol Estrellado, NMC group, Alvin Acosta, Alex Bauan and John Capinpin. The championship round unfolds on Oct. 16 and 18. Three derbies will be the basis in the selection of the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Speed Shoot Challenge up

VALLE

THE SAN MIGUEL CORP. SPEED Shoot invitational challenge will be held today at the Bugsy Lair's Billiard Hall in Sgt. Esguerra, Timog, Quezon City.

The tournament was an offshoot of the highly successful 1st SMC Scotch Doubles 10-ball won by the tandem of Gandy Valle and Mark Mendoza last Sept. 21.

Among the invited players are current WPA 9-Ball and WPA 8-Ball champion Ronato Alcano, 2007 SMB RP 9-Ball titlist Antonio Gabica, 2007 BCA Enjoypool.com 9-Ball champion Dennis Orcollo and 2007 2nd BSCP National Pool titlist Lee Vann Corteza.

Also expected to join are 2007 US Bar Table 9-Ball and 8-Ball champion Warren Kiamco, 2007 Oslo, Norway Battle of Scandinavia 9-Ball titlist Roberto Gomez, 2007 Korea Pro Tour champion Joven Bustamante, 2006 Japan Open king, Antonio Lining, 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-Ball silver medalist Jeffrey de Luna and former SMB Asian 9-Ball tour leg winner Gandy Valle.

Also in the prospective list are youthful standouts Mark Mendoza, Renemar David and Filipino-Japanese Mike Takayama and Jharome Pena, Ricky Zerna, Russian Petiza, Carlo Biado, Jundel Mazon, Benjie Guevarra and Fidel Punzalan.

For inquiries, contact Valle at 0916 9589897. *Marlon Bernardino*

La Salle spikers expect tough battle from rivals

DE LA SALLE FINALLY GETS TO DEfend its Shakey's V-League second conference crown when the intercollegiate women's volleyball competition begins its second offering on Sunday at The Arena in San Juan.

On top of the Lady Archers' list of challengers are the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses, champions in the 2004 inaugural season and during this year's first conference.

La Salle, which won the next three conferences after UST, was not able to defend its title last year as the V-League staged an international invitational meet instead.

La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus said defending their title is a tall order as most of his players in that champion team are no longer around.

"*Halos lahat ng* (Almost all of my) players *ko na nakapanalo ng* (who won the) three-peat, *wala na ngayon* (are gone)," said De Jesus, whose team placed fourth behind Lyceum in the previous conference.

"*Karamihan ngayon sa* (Most members of the) team, juniors so this is an adjustment period for us," added De Jesus, one of the guests in Tuesday's weekly PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch.

The Lady Tigresses, already a formidable squad behind the 1-2 punch of Ging Balse and Venus Bernal, signed up former University of the East star Suzanne Roces in their bid to win a second straight title and third championship overall.

Roces was the Adamson "import" during the first conference but was acquired by UST after the Lady Falcons were eliminated.

De Jesus also lists three-peat NCAA champion San Sebastian College and Adamson University as tough contenders.

La Salle beat San Sebastian for the V-League title in 2006 while it bested Adamson in the 2005 UAAP finals.

La Salle tests the mettle of UST, also the UAAP defending champion, in the 5 p.m. main game. Adamson and Far Eastern University collide in the 3 p.m. opener.

Ateneo and Letran are also participating.

All teams are allowed to tap one guest player, either foreign or local.

San Sebastian is trying to bring back first conference Most Valuable Player Jeng Bualee from Thailand as they try to finally nail the crown that has eluded them the past two conferences.

Format of the meet will have the top five teams advancing to the semifinal at the end of the single round eliminations.

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Orduna leads RP World Cup contingent to Italy

ORDUNA

JOEY ORDUNA IS ALL SET TO DO BATTLE in the Mini-ROK division of the 2007 ROK World Cup set Oct. 11-14, at the South Garda Karting Track in Lonato, Italy.

The 12-year-old Orduna, a Grade 6 student of Maria Montessori School, is bent on improving on his performance last year, when engine problems forced him out of the race.

The R2R Racing member was running fourth in his initial World Cup stint when bad luck caught up with him. Orduna will lead a 10-man team to the event.

Teammate Juha Turalba, a wildcard entry in the ROK Junior division, is also competing.

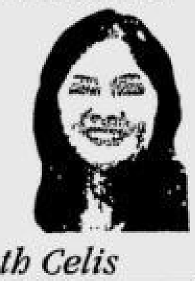
"It's a big honor to carry the country's flag in the event for the second straight year," said Orduna. "We're looking forward to making a big impression for the Philippines against the world's best young karters in our class."

Orduna's recent feats include victories in the Philippine leg and the Indonesian round of the Asian Karting Open Championship and the Boomland leg of the ongoing National Karting Series.

Orduna controlled the race from start to finish in the fast 650-meter Boomland track inside the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex. He wrapped up the 26-lap final race in 11 minutes and 40.971 seconds, 1.262 seconds.

Internet, 'pancit canton' lead to Fil-Am's discovery

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

TYPICAL OF this so-called cyber age, the discovery of Filipino-American national player Vicky Brick from the University of Maryland, a Division I US NCAA squad, came through the Internet.

And SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio was the one who tracked her down.

"I was searching the US NCAA website one day, in an effort to find a Fil-Am talent for our ladies national team, when I came across Vicky's photo," Pato recounted.

"I guess it was pure intuition, because Vicky's name didn't sound Filipino and neither did she look like one. But I got curious and read through her bio-data. When I got to the item that said her favorite dish was *pancit canton*, it was like hitting the jackpot. I knew she must have had some Filipino blood in her," related Pato, who struck another coincidence when he found out what Vicky's middle name is.

Gregorio.

***

More than Pato, ladies national team coach Fritz Gaston is happy that Vicky was discovered.

"Her presence has raised the team's level of play. She is definitely an invaluable addition," Fritz said.

Tomorrow Vicky leaves with the ladies' team for Phuket, Thailand where it will compete in the Seaba qualifier for the FIBA-Asia Women's championship.

Personally, I'm glad that many people are now taking care of our ladies' team. There's Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier, Cynthia Tiu of Discovery Suites, Marivic del Pilar of Victory Liner, and Alex Wang of PRC Couriers.

***

Last Monday, Jean Henri hosted a sendoff dinner at the California Pizza Kitchen for the women's team. It was on the same night amateur basketball's godfather Mikee Romero also tendered a sendoff party at the Kamayan-Saisaki on Edsa for the men's basketball team, which left for Korea yesterday to play a series of tune-up games.

It was the first time the lineup of the men's team was introduced to the PBL ballclubs. In addition to the regular Harbour Centre squad, Mikee said the national squad was going to play in the next PBL conference.

I was surprised to see former PBA player Alex Crisano in the national team lineup. Alex kept telling everybody—except me I guess—that he is now a reformed Christian.

***

A day after the double sendoff, I was at the Reyes Gym in Mandaluyong on the invitation of Mikee to watch the practice game between the Philippine team and Harbour Centre.

Mikee said he feels the Nationals need another point guard. According to him, the positions would have been completed, had four of their players not been signed up by PBA teams after the tournament in Brunei last August.

The game ended at 101-77 in favor of the nationals, with players from the champion De La Salle Archers watching from the sidelines. Does this mean that the national lineup which left for Korea yesterday is still far from being final?

***

Bet you the Ateneo Sports office in Katipunan was flooded with phone calls after that report in the papers about Eagles coach Norman Black being replaced by Chot Reyes.

Well, I was told that Ateneo has officially denied the report and as far as Ateneo patron Manny V. Pangilinan is concerned, his office was most surprised to hear about what turned out to be pure rumor.

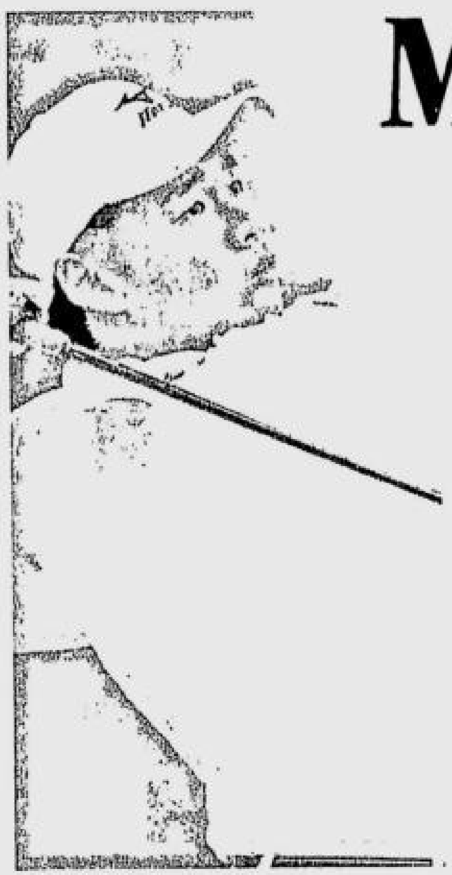
***

For Marietta Pumaren, mother of UE's Dindo and La Salle's Franz, the championship game in the UAAP was not a win-win situation for the Pumarens.

"Sure a Pumaren was certain to win the title, but one of the brothers will also have to lose. That was the prospect I can't bear to witness, that's why I decided to stay home last Sunday," Marietta related.

While she was ecstatic for Franz who won the championship, Marietta said she was heartbroken for youngest son Dindo.

Malarayat hosts Asean Golf Tour leg Oct. 17



ARTEMIO Murakami

LOCAL STARS LED BY ARTEMIO MUrakami, who recently scored his first victory overseas, and World Cup-bound partners Gerald Rosales and Antonio Lascuna will see action in the Active Mt. Malarayat Championship, the Philippine leg of the Asean Golf Tour on Oct. 17-20.

The tourney offering $30,000 (about P1.35 million) in prize money will be held at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas with the local aces joined by about 60 players from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

The Philippine leg will also give Filipino rookie pro Marvin Dumandan a chance to make amends for a heartbreaking outing in the kick-off event, the $50,000 International Championship at Imperial Klub Golf near Jakarta, Indonesia won by Danny Chia of Malaysia.

Dumandan led Chia and Indonesian Denny Supriadi by seven strokes going into the final round but his inexperience showed in a disappointing score of 81 in the final round.

Dumandan wound up fourth in a big bunch that also included compatriot Angelo Que.

The Philippine roster is certainly not wanting in quality as Murakami, Rosales and Lascuna are coming off successful stints of late.

Murakami recorded the second RP win on the Asian Tour since Frankie Minoza's victory at the Philippine Open at Wack Wack last February by topping the Iskandar Johor Open in Malaysia while Rosales and Lascuna booked a spot in the Omega World Cup in Mission Hills, China after making it to the Top 5 in the recent qualifier.

Lascuna has also boosted his Asian Tour stock by placing second to Murakami and then placing third the week after.

Minoza is a doubtful starter since he's busy playing in the Japanese Tour.

There will be other notable RP challengers to watch such as Juvic Pagunsan who is on the comeback trail after recovering from a shoulder injury, Mars Pucay, Cookie La'O and Elmer Salvador.

NY manager in limbo after playoff exit

NEW YORK—GENERAL MANAGER BRIAN Cashman on Tuesday described Joe Torre's reign as Yankees manager as "magical, incredible" yet he was could not say whether the skipper would see a 13th season.

Club owner George Steinbrenner issued a win-or-else ultimatum aimed at Torre in an interview published on Sunday, providing the air of a death watch at Yankee Stadium.

The ax did not fall on Torre by the afternoon following Monday night's 6-4 loss to the Cleveland Indians that eliminated New York in the first round of the playoffs.

Cashman, facing reporters in the middle of a clubhouse crowded with cardboard moving boxes for players to pack their gear, said the decision-making process had yet to begin in what could be a tumultuous Yankee off-season.

"No heavy lifting today," Cashman said.

"There will be a process. Ownership is going to take some time. I'll sit down with ownership. We're going to discuss the future, the manager as well as the roster.

"I'm not going to map out what the time frame is. I'll be honest, we're making it up as we go along. We were hoping to be on a flight today for a Game 5 in Cleveland but we're not."

Cashman lobbied hard for Torre to return for the final year of his contract after the Yankees fell to the Detroit Tigers in the first round of last season's playoffs. *Reuters*

NBC-Spring five stumbles

HUA LIEN, TAIWAN—THE NBC-SPRING Cooking Oil squad bowed out of the Hua Lien Probation basketballtournament here with two heartbreaking losses.

Failing to get much needed support from import Steven Broom and Michael Anthony McDaniel, the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla lost to SBI's Media, 114-116, in double overtime and the Malaysian national team, 80-82.

Despite the disappointing showing, Padilla lauded his wards' big fighting hearts in the face of strong opposition.

Larry Rodriguez and Nino Marquez led the team outfitted by Champion Sportswear as they averaged 18.4 and 18.0 points, respectively. McDaniel and Broom averaged 11.3 and 10.8 points, respectively.

Aunzo wrests lead

LIPA CITY—FERDINAND AUNZO shot his second straight one-under-par 71 to grab the lead from Miko Alejandro with one round to go in the fourth leg of the Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here.

Aunzo, a member of the ICTSI-supported team in the premiere Championship division, submitted a 142 total, two strokes up on felllow ICTSI players Miko Alejandro, who carded a 74, and Mike Bibat, who also fired a 71.

South Korean Jae Min-koo submitted another 73 and landed at 146 in the company of reigning Philippine Open Amateur champion Anthony Fernando, who rebounded from an opening 76 with a 70.

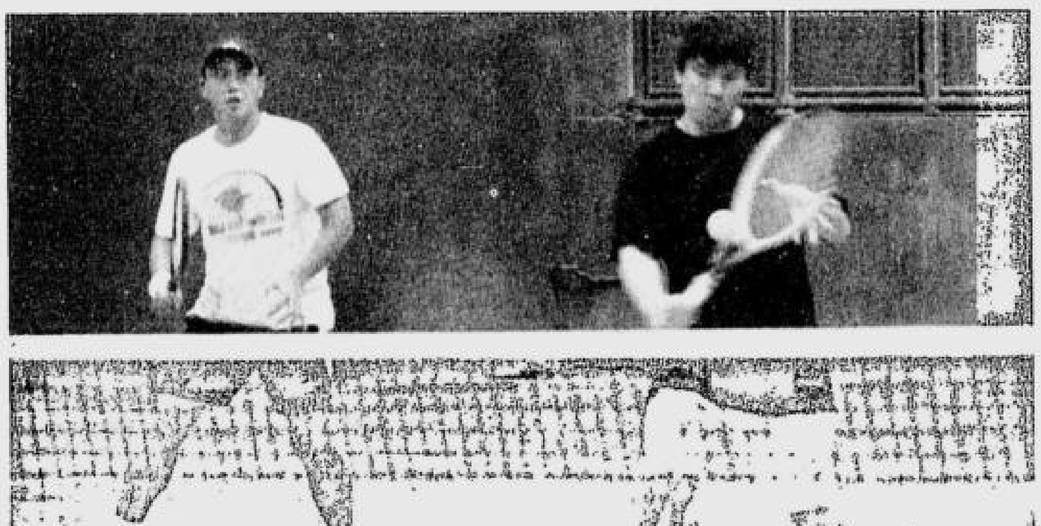
Another ICTSI player, Dante Bisera, was six shots off Aunzo, winner of the recent Sabah Amateur Open, at 148 following his second consecutive 74. Venjo Reyes caught up with Bisera after firing a 73.

It was Benjie Sarmiento, however, who grabbed the limelight with a day-best 69 for a 149. Sarmiento, the Malarayat Active-Mid Amateur championmiento cruised past South Koreans Sung Bin-yoon (75=151) and Hyung Gi-Jeon (76=152) and Abe Avena (75=152).

Prominent among those who did not make the cut was ICTSI's Gene Bondoc, who tumbled with a 77 and fell one shot short of the 152 qualifying mark.

Rusty Lopez, CKP 168 whip foes

RUSTY LOPEZ BANKED ON JESSIE GARCIA AND JEFF KHALILI TO thwart NRTP of coach Tony Pardo in overtime, 86-78, and share the lead in the 2007 MBT Corporate Leahue held over the weekend at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong City. Garcia led Rusty Lopez with 27 points while Khalili chipped 23 points for the Gil Flororita-owned team which remained undefeated after two games. CKP 168, drawing firepower from Dexter Micutan, Marvin Poloyapoy, Dave Catamora and Howard Flor, clobbered World Balance, 90-40, to keep abreast with Rusty Lopez in the event organized by Metro Basketball Tournaments Inc. Wang's of sportsman Alex Wang stunned MBT triple division champion Nougat Candy of Mike Mancilla, 82-79.



VVCC-Smart's Junjun Villanueva (right) returns a shot while Tonito Payumo looks on during their semifinal match against PCA-Fermarjin's Mike Co and Dennis Profeta. Valle Verde won, 4-3.

MLTC, PCA reach finals

TOP SEED MANDALUYONG LAWN TENNIS Club (MLTC)—Mizuno prevailed at home while Philippine Columbian Association (PCA)—Fermarjin won away Saturday to arrange a title showdown in the 3rd Babolat Home & Away Interclub Team Tennis.

MLTC scored a 5-2 victory over arch rival Mandaluyong Tennis Club (MTC)-NCMH courtesy of Baby Gregorio-Patrick Jeanjacquet (45 & above), Gary Murty-Mike Pedranza (35 & above), Bong Gregorio-Bobby Esquivel (open), Bob Sabandon-Hermie Loyola (55 & above) and Gigi Tecson-Bugsy Delos Reyes (35 & above).

The second-seeded Valle Verde Country Club (VVCC)-Smart, on the other hand, failed to capitalize on its homecourt edge and bowed to No. 3 seed PCA, which prevailed 4-3 after a dramatic seventh game win by PCA's Jun Toledo and Raymond Villarete over VVCC's Randy Villanueva and Karl Santamaria. Other winners were Mike Mis-Julius Kraut (open), Hanky Lee-Mike Sy (35 & above), and Randy Male-Albert Chiu (45 & above).

Gandionco rules kart leg

GANDIONCO

CEBU RACING GROUP karter Patrick Gandionco received an early birthday gift as he overtook the favorites to rule the seventh and penultimate leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Boomland Kart Track of Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

Gandionco and rivals Javi Benitez of Jet Racing and Juha Turalba of Tuason Racing-Ready2Race share the same birthday—October 14—but the Cebuano racer will have a merrier celebration as he swept all three races in the ROK Junior division.

Gandionco, 13, was unstoppable throughout, displaying near-flawless driving to post the fastest lap time of 29.892 seconds. He was the only junior karter to break the 30-second barrier.

He wrapped up the 26-lap race in 13 minutes and 5.40 seconds, 3.639 seconds ahead of runner-up Benitez, to climb to third place overall.

Cebu leg winner Roby Benito of Tuason Racing-R2R bounced back from a fifth place finish in Race 2 to claim third place while Vencer John Suba and Turalba ended fourth and fifth, respectively.

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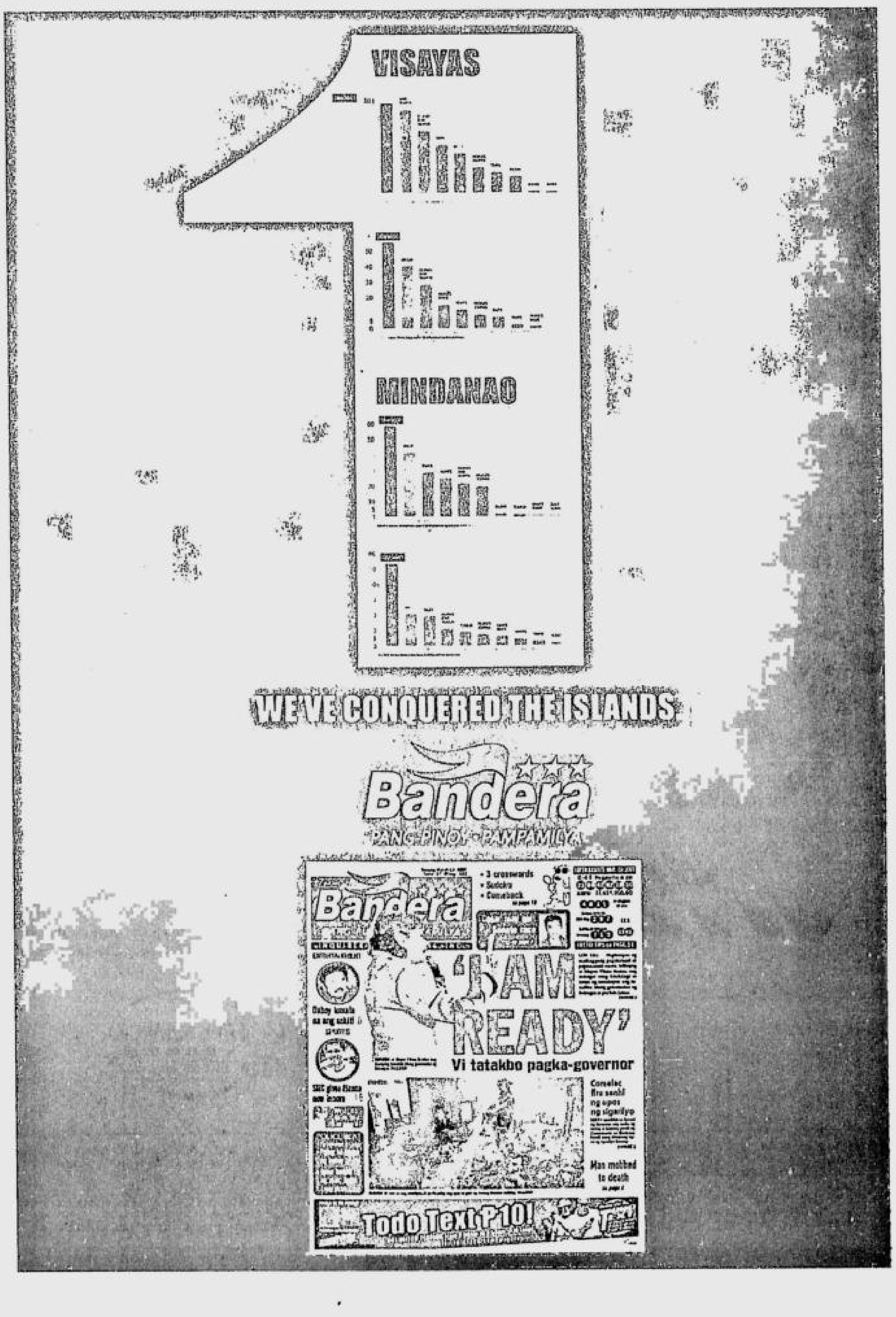


SPORTS

MOTORING TIPS SUZUKI Way of Life!

Driving Words to the Wise Driver

Maintenance may sound too tedious for life on the fast lane. But come crunch time, it spells the difference between costly repairs from repairs that cost less. These simple tips can save you time, energy and money spent at your local pit stop for maintenance and repairs.

1. Don't pedal to the metal – Easy Schumacher, the whole point of driving is not to outrun. The goal is to get from point A to point B safely and on time. The harder you step on the pedal, the more fuel you use. Cruise smoothly and go easy on the brakes.

2. The earlier the bird, the lesser the road rage - Rush hour traffic can turn any calm motorist into mad max. Traffic costs you more than half of your patience and regular fuel consumption, and guess what? You can't do anything about it. Keep your cool and save fuel by avoiding rush hour as much as possible. Schedule your trips wisely.

3. Roll up the windows - Open windows cause unnecessary drag that not only slows you down when running at high speeds, it increases fuel consumption. Simply roll up your windows to speed up and save up.

4. Check ups against hiccups – To avoid frequent and costly engine hiccups, maintain regular check-ups on your engine and car body. Oil change, general tune ups and cleaning of air filters every three months optimizes engine performance and saves you fuel by up to 10%.

5. Fill 'er up right - Use the right kind of oil or fuel as specified by your car manufacturer. It's best to fill your gas in the morning or late at night when the car's engine is not too hot. Avoid small fuel fills because gas evaporates every time you open the fuel cap.

6. Choose your car wisely - The type of car dictates the overall driving experience. If your priority is fuel economy, choose a compact, high-performance yet fuel efficient car. A good example of such a car is the new Suzuki Alto. Not only does it meet world safety and emissions regulations, it gives you more mileage with its 20.43km/Liter consumption. Plus, with a 735 kg curb weight you can carry on at high speeds in complete comfort and ease.

SUZUKI
Alto

Suzuki Philippines, known for its quality high-performance yet fuel efficient vehicles, affordability, safety and environment-friendliness, not only promotes driving convenience and efficiency but also advocates responsible driving to motorists all over the country.

Mindanao runners take last shot at nat'l finals

THE FINAL SIX BERTHS FOR MINDANAO representatives to the National Milo Marathon will be disputed this Sunday when the race's qualifying leg goes to Butuan City.

Three slots each in the men's and women's division will be at stake for the Nov. 18 grand finals in Metro Manila, where the country's best long-distance runners put their skills to an ultimate test and vie for the P75,000 top prize.

Close to 4,000 runners will be joining the Butuan City race, but organizers expect most of the participants to be joining the 5K side event and the Kiddies 3K age-group race.

Organizing the run in Butuan City is Ben Dacera in cooperation with Leonardo Yu, Nestle regional distributor for North Mindanao.

Also on hand for this Sunday's festivities are the interschool running contest and the much-awaited cheerdance competition.

According to MILO AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong, a total cash prize of P159,000 will be given away to the winners on Sunday.

Dacera also announced that Butuan City Mayor Democrito Plaza, congressman Jose "Joeboy" Aquino II, and Vice Mayor Dino Sanchez will start the 21K, 5K, and 3K races from the Butuan City Plaza at exactly 6 a.m.

Goc-Ong is also advising all participants to be at the starting area not later than 5 a.m. for pre-race briefings and check in.

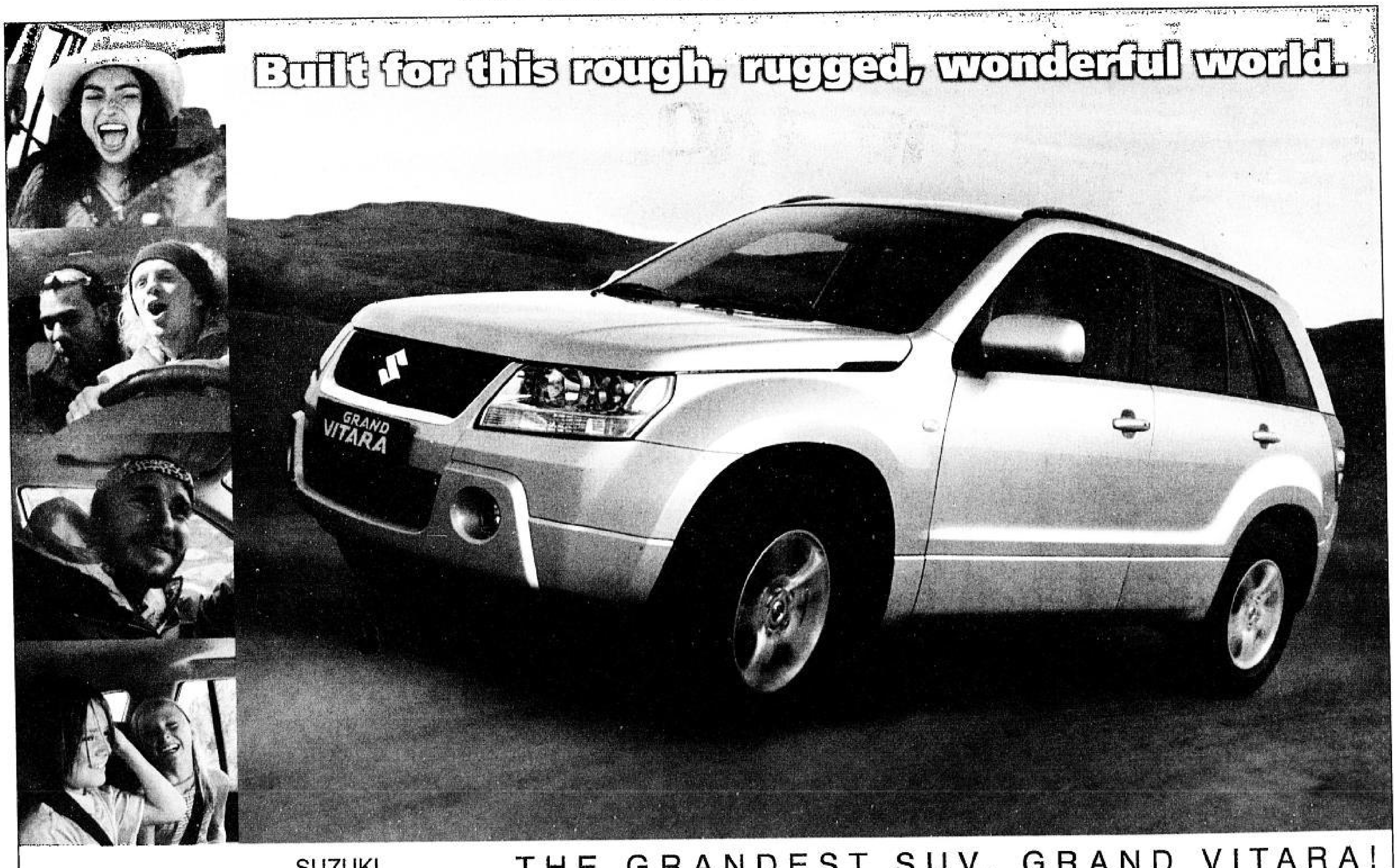
National organizer Rudy Biscocho, meanwhile, said all participants should wear their respective MILO t-shirts/singlets given to them upon registration for security purposes.

KIDS of all sizes, including those too small for their running outfits, are expected to form the bulk of the field in the Butuan edition of the Milo marathon.

39 local jins head for Vietnam

THIRTY-NINE JINS WILL BANNER THE Smart/Petron team in the 8th Asean Taekwondo Federation (ATF) championships slated today until Oct. 14 in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Vietnam. Five officials, including delegation head Stephen Fernandez, coaches Ricardo Santiago Jr. and Chang Woo Lee and two international referees, complete the team which is backed by Smart Communications, PLDT, Petron and Philippine Sports Commission.

24
OUTLAST
ABOVE ALL



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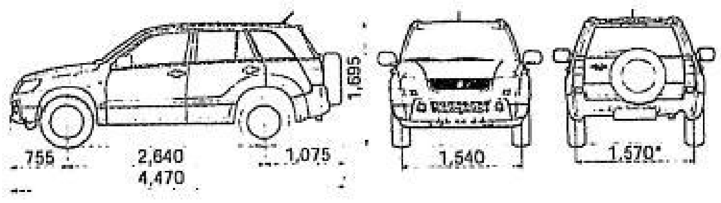

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Peso hits new 7-year high of 44.15 to $1

BSP says foreign investments up 70% in first 7 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY shot up to a new seven-year high of 44.15 from Tuesday's 44.31 to the US dollar on bullish stock market activity across the region, currency traders said.

The local currency opened at the day's low of 44.25 then strengthened throughout the day to close near the day's peak of 44.145 against the greenback, likewise aided by increasing remittances from overseas Filipino workers and expectations of further inflows going to public stock offerings of local companies in the weeks ahead.

With more foreign funds scouting for high-yielding assets in Asian emerging markets following the US Federal Reserve's 50-basis point cut last month, traders said there was more room for the local currency to gain against the greenback although the market was nearing a short-term correction.

But volume at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System thinned yesterday to $403 million from the previous day's $640 million.

PESO HITS/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Merchandise exports** down 4.8% in August /B3
- **Ecozone investments** surge /B5

PAL receivership exit a first in SEC history

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

SPECIAL REPORT

CORPORATE WATCHERS ARE UNANIMOUS in saying that Philippine Airlines' arduous path back to financial health was due mainly to its majority shareholder and PAL chair Lucio Tan.

Love him or hate him, the tobacco and beer magnate played a pivotal role in averting what was poised to be the country's biggest corporate failure less than a decade ago.

"He played the most important role," said PAL permanent rehabilitation receiver Renato Z. Francisco. "He assembled a group consisting of Hong Kong and other foreign companies to infuse capital worth $200 million in June 1999. That was an infusion directly into PAL."

Francisco said the seed money helped sustain debt payments to PAL's creditors even at a time when the flag carrier suffered losses. This was after fuel prices shot up due to the 9-11 bombing and the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory

PAL RECEIVERSHIP/ B4

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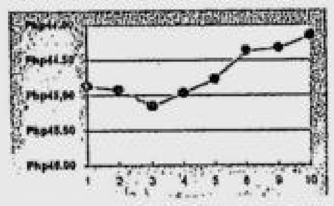


SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

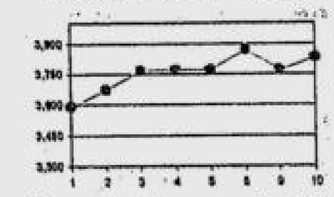
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.15 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks jump 1.6%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.6 PERCENT higher yesterday, buoyed by gains on Wall Street and hopes of an interest rate cut in the United States, dealers said.

The gains followed the index's 2.5-percent drop in the previous session, when investors took a breather after a six-day rally that brought the main index to a record high on Monday, they said.

The composite index was up 58.71 points at 3,834.71, off a high of 3,841.01.

There were 84 gainers and 38 decliners, while 48 stocks were steady.

A total of 4.6 billion shares valued at P4.8 billion were traded.

Investors shrugged off news that merchandise exports in August fell 4.8 percent year-on-year, reflecting the impact of a strong peso on export earnings.

"(Tuesday's) correction created fresh buying opportunities. Investors are still focused on the bright earnings outlook for Philippine companies," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

A further rate cut in the US may also bolster the argument for further policy easing in the Philippines, after last week's 25-basis-point rate cut by Manila's central bank, dealers said.

"We may see another quarter-percentage point cut in Philippine key interest rates if the Fed decides to slash its rates later this month," said Jonathan Ravelas at

STOCKS/ B4

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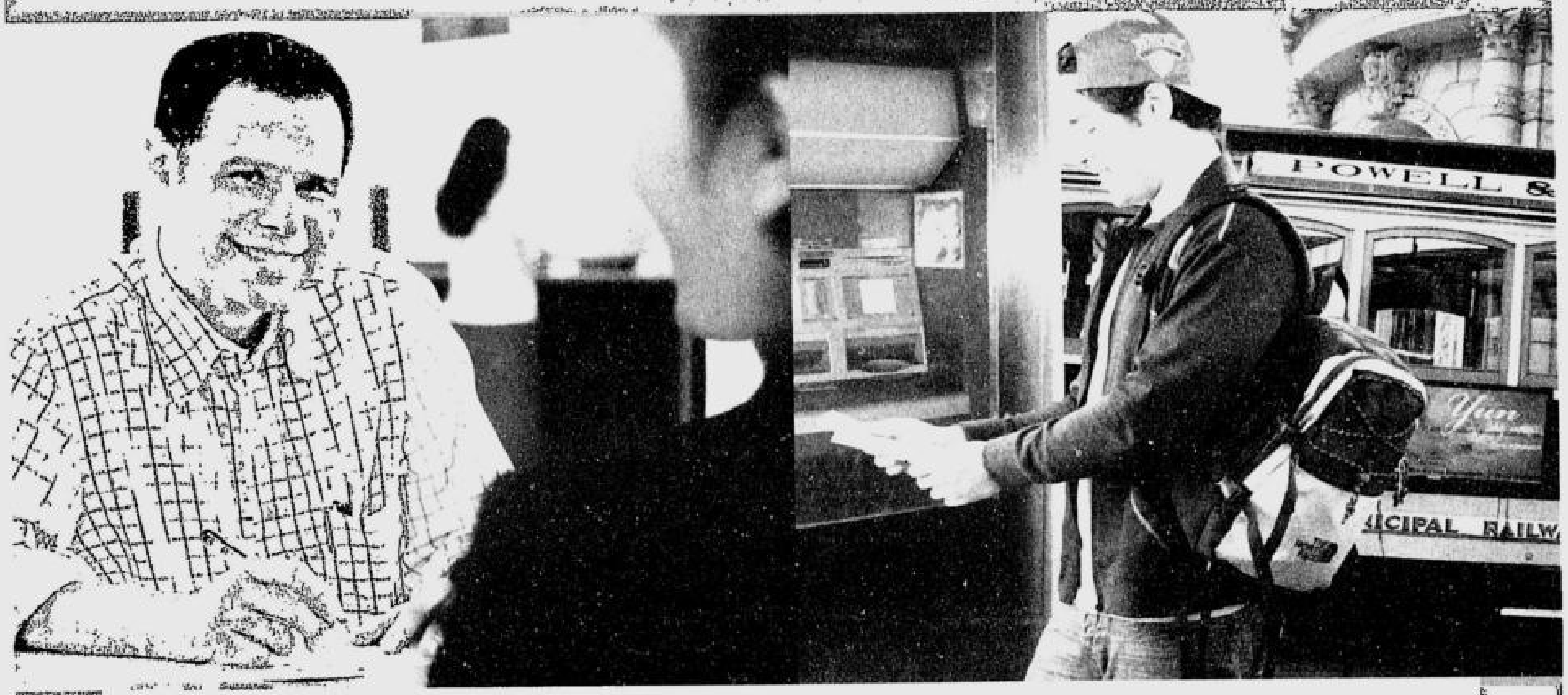

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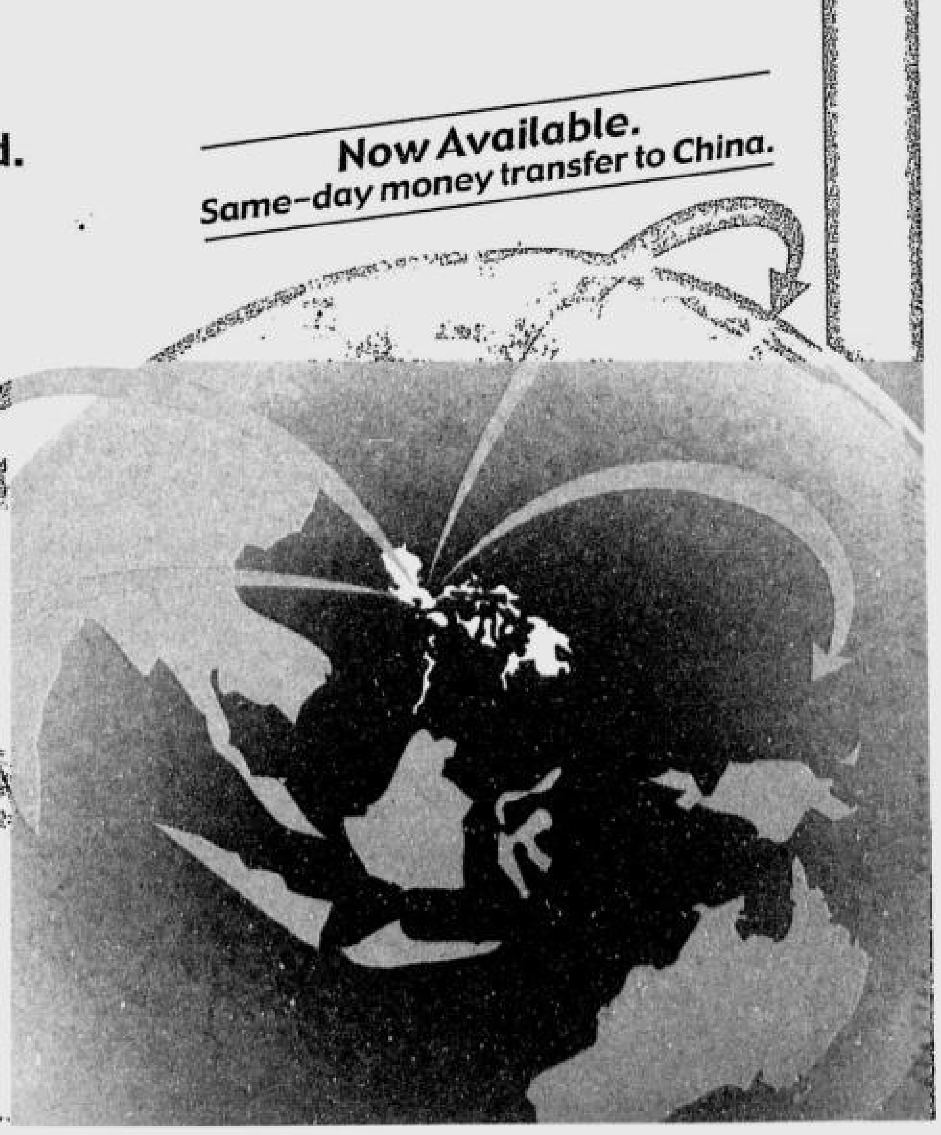

BPI
We'll take you farther

Call center plans to raise P4B from stock offering

IPO planned in 1st quarter of 2008

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CONTACT CENTER FIRM EPERFORmax International Inc. said it plans to raise up to P4 billion from a planned initial public offering of 223 million common shares by the first quarter of 2008 for its expansion and debt repayment, the company said in a statement.

ePerformax said it would sell up to 155 million new shares and 68 million existing shares through a secondary offering.

ePerformax indicated that the shares would be priced at P12.50 to P18 each.

The shares will represent 33.8 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of the company after its initial public offer.

ePerformax has tapped BDO Capital and Investment Corp, as the issue manager and lead underwriter for the share sale.

"Being one of the pioneers in the call center industry here in the Philippines, we are privileged to be regarded as the company that would break new ground in the form of this IPO filing. Our unique positioning will furnish the investing public with a compelling growth story and a sound investment moving forward in this process," ePerformax president Teresa D. Hartsaw said.

ePerformax is the first locally operating, Philippine-based call center to file for an initial public offering.

"We believe that the local BPO industry is still underserved and there is still ample room for expansion. Either through acquisitions or building from the ground up, our competitive advantage in human resource training and operational efficiencies will give us the edge that we need to move forward successfully," Hartsaw added.

According to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, the country's BPO industry registered a 1,000-percent revenue growth over the last six years and projected to continue at an average of close to 26 percent over the next three years.

ePerformax opened its contact center in Manila in 2002 with the vision of being the best call center in the Philippines.

iRemit IPO oversubscribed

I-REMIT INC. (IREMIT), THE country's biggest Filipino-owned, non-bank remittance company, proved to be a hot item among brokers and institutional investors after generating hefty demand.

iRemit's offer period started last Oct. 5 and will end today. Listing of the shares will be on Oct. 17.

First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), lead underwriter for the IPO, reported in a statement that the allocation for member brokers of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) was 5.1 times oversubscribed.

FMIC executive vice president Jose Marcelo explained that the allocation for brokers was 20 percent of the IPO or roughly P130 million. Demand reached P660 million or five times more than the allocation.

Marcelo also said that demand from institutional or big investors last Oct. 3 during a bookbuilding process or a period within the IPO process—when underwriters receive indications from investors of the number of shares they are willing to buy, just before the final offer price is set—was 3.7 times oversubscribed.

Of the total offer, 70 percent has been allocated for institutional investors, Marcelo said. Demand reached around P1.78 billion from the allocation set at roughly P480 million.

"The company's strong fundamentals, the bullish sentiment at the exchange, and the pricing strategy of the existing shareholders have all contributed to this result," he said.

The company priced the IPO at P4.68 a share. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CURRENCIES

October 10, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.708767	1.000000	44.3450
Japan	Yen	0.006048	0.008533	0.3784
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444964	2.038700	90.4062
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091340	0.128871	5.7148
Switzerland	Franc	0.599178	0.845380	37.4884
Canada	Dollar	0.721685	1.018226	45.1532
Singapore	Dollar	0.481369	0.679163	30.1175
Australia	Dollar	0.635951	0.897263	39.7891
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.881467	2.654562	117.7166
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189535	0.267415	11.8585
Brunei	Dollar	0.479740	0.676865	30.0156
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022569	0.031842	1.4120
UAE	Dirham	0.193009	0.272316	12.0759
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.410900	62.5664
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001089	0.0483
China	Yuan**	0.094289	0.133032	5.8993
Denmark	Kroner	0.134241	0.189401	8.3990
India	Rupee	0.018071	0.025497	1.1307
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208830	0.294638	13.0657
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539931	0.761789	33.7815
Sweden	Kroner	0.109209	0.154083	6.8328
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021748	0.030684	1.3607

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 9, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 9, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 10, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	90,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	64	67.5	64	67	1,519,600
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70	71.5	70	71.5	1,931,000
748	508	China Banking Corp.	725	725	715	715	2,480
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	2,290,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	63	66	63	65.5	3,354,300
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	54	56	54	56	393,500
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	6,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	942,200
90	53	Security Bank Corp.	78	79	78	79	134,600
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54.5	54	54	534,800
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	420,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2	1.94	1.94	2,745,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13	13	12.75	13	241,500
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	3,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.9	400,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	600
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,880.00	1,880.00	700
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	870,000
3.1	1.06	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	32,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	830	915	830	910	43,490
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,340.00	2,340.00	2,340.00	2,340.00	280
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	716,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	6,710,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	660,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	69	69.5	68.5	68.5	363,600
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	83.5	84.5	83.5	84.5	375,300
17.25	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	15.75	17.25	15.75	16.5	19,328,200
105.45	19.55	Manila Electric.Co.	83	85.5	83	84	1,090,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.2	41,596,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6	6.4	6	6.4	13,574,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	43,000
1.9	0.99	Trans Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	206,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	752,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.06	2.08	2.02	2.06	2,670,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	2,000
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	54	53.5	54	327,700
10.25	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing & Redry Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	17,000
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.78	940,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.75	1,623,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	61.5	61.5	61.5	106,700
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64	64	62.5	62.5	442,400
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
5.2	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.2	455,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	1,137,500
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.4	2,030,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.95	EEI Corp.	4.7	5.1	4.7	5	4,182,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	10.75	11.5	10.75	11.25	200,200
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	54,000
7	1.64	Republic Cement Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	46,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.32	6,436,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	2,701,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	60,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.14	Picop Resources Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	14,260,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.24	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	104,000
0.17	0.026	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.12	52,800,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.81	0.84	38,970,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.45	3.65	3.25	3.25	9,419,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.55	3.6	3.3	3.35	1,545,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	11,500,000
9.7	5.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	2,093,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	58,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	14,147,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.32	2.34	445,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	565	590	565	585	520,080
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	16,000
5.8	1.32	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.65	12,651,000
10.25	4.15	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.4	9	9.4	3,827,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.7	4.25	4.7	379,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	61,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	1,713,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	285,000
14.5	6.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,045,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.9	2.14	1.88	2.08	2,060,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.69	0.63	0.64	4,640,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.3	8,624,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.235	0.245	0.23	0.23	311,040,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	2,390,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	402.5	412.5	402.5	410	206,960
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	14,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.45	0.48	0.44	0.48	37,810,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	10,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.42	6,050,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.98	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	1,021,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.8	30,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.78	810,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17	17.25	8,216,600
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.32	1.38	1.28	1.36	8,128,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.25	53,000
2.04	1.5	Cebu Prop. Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	2	2.04	1.92	2.04	130,000
2.1	1.6	Cebu Prop. Venture & Dev't Corp."B"	1.92	2.06	1.92	2.06	152,000
3.83	1.33	City and Land Developers Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	4,000
0.86	0.33	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.64	0.65	2,280,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	920,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.8	5,270,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	14,530,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	9,413,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.86	1.78	1.84	71,506,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	160,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.64	2,970,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.1	55,697,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.95	4.2	4.7	1,754,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	400,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.6	6,680,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	19.75	19.25	19.25	2,072,800
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.2	4.3	9,969,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	8,390,800
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.48	2.5	2.48	2.5	208,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	130,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	17,190,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.9	6	5.7	6	5,322,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	32.5	31.5	32	19,800
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9	9.2	8.9	8.9	2,790,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.58	1.62	1.56	1.58	2,360,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,640.00	1,670.00	1,640.00	1,650.00	53,490
3,285.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,170.00	3,170.00	3,135.00	3,135.00	142,280
8.1	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.9	8.1	7.8	8	1,616,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.24	0.215	0.23	63,960,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	1,159,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.055	0.046	0.049	846,000,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.215	40,050,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.34	211,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	136,600,000
5.8	1.3	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.25	38,760,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	31,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.2	720,000
40	18	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37	39	37	39	5,571,000
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2.02	2	2.02	49,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	52,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	1,640,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.71	0.77	0.71	0.74	16,770,000
1.2	0.43	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.8	1,240,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	26.5	26.5	25	25	1,000
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5	5	4.9	4.95	510,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.75	13	13.25	696,200
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	1,252,700
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	309,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	603,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	49,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.5	15	15.25	3,869,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	12.25	12	12.25	17,500
8.7	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	7.2	8.7	7.2	8.7	3,718,000
3.1	0.53	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.55	2.6	48,723,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	9,190,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	12,160,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	152,500,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	180,500,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.25	22	21	21.75	2,374,100
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	248,100,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8	8.1	7.8	8	11,948,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	37.5	38	37.5	38	43,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	2,930,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	3,163,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	4,440,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	396,400,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	175,000,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	29,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	439,800,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	984.43 UP	18.13	16,671,350	603,396,840.00
Industrial	4,779.60 UP	78.83	122,409,200	1,029,196,495.00
Holding Firms	2,176.55 UP	70.19	588,175,040	857,866,745.00
Property	1,739.42 UP	40.85	233,407,200	770,944,190.00
Service	1,877.25 DOWN	7.79	1,162,639,470	1,053,707,555.00
Mining & Oil	7,666.10 UP	134.86	2,004,557,100	430,689,890.00
All Shares Index	2,394.58 UP	35.30		
PSEI	3,834.71 UP	58.71		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,127,859,360	4,745,801,715.00

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Merchandise exports down 4.8% in August

ELECTRONICS exports dropped by 4 percent to $2.6 billion in August.

By Doris C. Dumlao

Strong peso, weak world prices blamed

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORT earnings dropped by 4.8 percent in August, the first time a contraction was seen this year.

This was due to the softening of electronics prices in the world market and the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said that on a month-on-month basis, export earnings fell by 2.8 percent from the July level.

Total earnings in August reached $4.07 billion.

In the first eight months of the year exports grew by 4.8 percent to $32.8 billion.

"We're now starting to feel the effects of the strong exchange rate and the slowdown in the United States," said Sergio Ortiz-Luis, chair of the Philippine Exporters Confederation.

Ortiz-Luis said this meant the sector's 11 percent growth target this year would no longer be attainable. He said he wouldn't be surprised if the slowdown in exports would continue in the coming months.

"We might have to accept the fact that earnings this year could even end up lower than the level last year," he said. "We're seeing more SME (small and medium enterprise) exporters falling."

A rising peso value hurts exporters by reducing the peso equivalent of their earnings. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier slashed its export growth outlook for this year to 8 percent from 11 percent not because of the rising peso but due to stiffer global competition.

Earnings from electronics, which accounted for about 64 percent of total receipts in August, fell by 4 percent to $2.6 billion from year ago due to the decline in the volume of components and devices shipped.

Garments, the country's second top export product, also posted a 10.7-percent decline in earnings to $218.5 million as of August.

Manufactured goods accounted for 87.6 percent of the country's exports but the value of the goods shipped declined by 3.3 percent. Exports of farm products, which account for 5 percent of the total, grew by 17.3 percent.

Permanent injunction slapped on PRCI deal

A MAKATI COURT HAS ISSUED a permanent injunction against the majority owners of Philippine Racing Club Inc. in connection with the firm's acquisition of JTH Davies and its plan to swap Sta. Ana racetrack for JTH shares.

The Makati Regional Trial Court issued the order in response to a suit filed by a group of minority shareholders questioning the deal entered into by PRCI's majority shareholders.

With the permanent injunction, the court effectively stopped the majority shareholders from consummating the Sta. Ana racetrack swap deal.

The ruling came after the Court of Appeals junked a petition filed by the majority shareholders that sought to stop the RTC from hearing the PRCI case.

PRCI's majority shareholders and directors include former Westmont Investment Corp. executives Santiago Cua Sr. and sons Santiago Jr. and Solomon; Sta. Lucia's Exequiel Robles; former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, and representatives of Malaysia's Magnum Investment Ltd.

In its Oct. 8, 2007 ruling, the Makati RTC said "it is undisputed that the purchase of JTH by PRCI was not properly discussed before the board of PRCI."

"The defendants (PRCI majority directors) are bound by the minimum requirements for corporate governance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which is wanting in the instant case," the court cited.

It further pointed out that "the findings and conclusions of the court in issuing the Temporary Restraining Order last July 16, 2007 remain good and tenable as far as the right of PRCI to retain the Makati property is concerned."

The trial court earlier stopped the defendants from taking up and approving the twin transactions for PRCI in the July 16, 2007 TRO.

Filipino minority shareholders have opposed the purchase saying the deal was "lopsided and highly questionable."

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The Inquirer apologizes to the parties concerned as this "notice to the public" should have been published on October 9.

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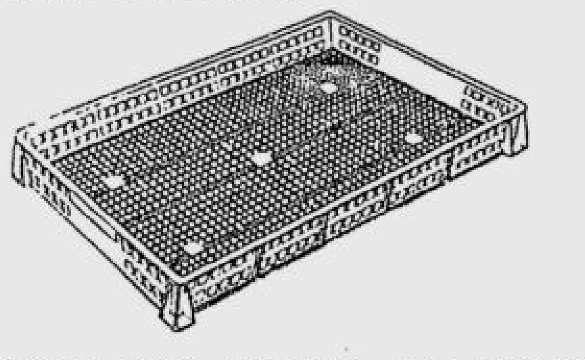

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BY· VERZOSA GUTIERREZ POQUIZ
MONTENEGRO & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for Plastimer Industrial Corporation

BCDA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE 2007-2008 COMMUNICATION & DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY

1. The *Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)*, through its 2007 Budget intends to apply the sum of *Six Million Pesos (P6,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Consulting Services for the 2007-2008 Communication & Development Advocacy.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. *BCDA* now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOIs)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the *Consulting Services for the 2007-2008 Communication & Development Advocacy. Issuance of the Eligibility Documents will be on* ***October 11-18, 2007.*** Eligibility Documents may be purchased by the interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00).* The method of payment will be in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
3. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs either delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below *on or before October 18, 2007 at the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City* and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. *Pre-eligibility conference will be held on* ***Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.*** The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on ***Monday, October 29, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.*** *The Opening of Eligibility Documents shall follow at 11:30 a.m.* Only those that are shortlisted will be entitled to submit bids.
4. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of at most *three (3)* bidders. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   a) *The Consultant must be a reputable public relations consulting firm with at least three (3) years business operation. In the case of joint ventures, each firm should have at least three (3) years business operation.*
   b) *The key personnel of the Consultant must have at least three (3) years experience in public relations, media handling and crisis management.*
   c) *The Consultant must have handled three (3) similar public relations projects involving major clientele.*
   d) *Consultants shall be assessed based on the most favorable compliance of the criteria stated above.*
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The BCDA shall evaluate bids using the *Quality Based Evaluation (QBE)* procedure, The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority at the address given below from *8:00 am to 5:00 pm.*
7. *Bases Conversion and Development Authority* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. The contract shall be completed within *one (1) year upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed.*

(Sgd.) **AILEEN AN. R. ZOSA**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Consultancy

Roy Victor R. Rosales or Lorna A. Enriquez
TWG/Secretariat for BAC for Consultancy
BCDA Corporate Center
2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center
31st St., Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634
Tel/Fax No. 816666 loc 103 or 123
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Will this IPO make Splash?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PERHAPS THE HEADLINES THE OTHER day said it all: The Philippine stock market, really, is just riding with the market boom in all of Asia.

No wonder, companies are again lining up at the Philippine Stock Exchange to do IPOs, something they have not done for the past 10 years or so.

One of them, which is expected to be listed at the PSE next month, is a pure Filipino company called Splash Corp., with its IPO managed jointly by the Metrobank subsidiary First Metro Investment Corp. and the Security Bank subsidiary SB Capital Investment Corp.

Splash who? Okay, while the name of the company may not ring a bell, its brand names should sound like gongs to stock market investors.

Splash is the maker of such brands as "Extraderm" or "Maxi-Peel" or "Skin White" or the skin-whitening "Biolink." You know, the so-called personal care products.

Nowadays they no longer call those items "beauty" products. I think the reason is simple enough. Today, men also use them.

* * *

ANYWAY, I heard that the company is trying to raise from P1.5 billion to P2 billion in fresh capital through its IPO.

Word in the market is that Splash wants to position itself as a serious competitor in the P70-billion a year market for personal care products.

As everybody knows, such a business has long been dominated by multinationals, like market-leader Unilever.

With its sales topping P1.5 billion last year, Splash ranks sixth, although the outfit called Euromonitor (a global provider of business intelligence and market analysis) places Splash as the leader in skin care.

Between us girls, AC Nielsen's report called Philippine Retail Index in June 2007 already ranked Splash as number one in the skin care category.

The company already captured 86 percent of the market in the "exfoliant" product, which removes dead cells on the skin to reveal a new (and hopefully more healthy) layer.

In the "skin whitening" category, Splash owns a market share of roughly 31 percent of the market of mostly brown-skinned people who are obsessed with having fair skin instead.

I am just not sure if those skin-whitening products can work their wonder for guys like the Palace's favorite political whipping boy, who is none other than the ever-tanned Makati Mayor Jojo Binay.

* * *

ABOUT 20 years ago, Splash started as a P12,000 backyard business, founded by the husband and wife medical doctors Rolando and Rosalinda Hortaleza.

Some P4 billion in total sales later, the couple steered the company to the top 300 corporations.

They also invested in a P400-million fully automated manufacturing plant in Bulacan as Splash gears itself up for exports, since it already ships to 17 countries where, naturally, there are OFWs.

My info is that the company will use the IPO proceeds partly for research and development of new products.

Word also has it that the group is using the funds to acquire some major brands in the same product lines.

I mean, really, that is what is good about a booming stock market. It helps Filipino companies to raise the money to fight in the global market.

Otherwise, they are just caught in this market where people have limited spending power.

* * *

IT SEEMS that the Napocor "mafia" are at it again: They are working hard in Congress to amend the Epira.

Everybody in Congress of course knew that the "mafia" was behind the move of Napocor to award hefty retirement packages to Napocor executives. Of course, Napocor rehired them after only a few months, with the same pay and benefits, if not actually better.

From what I hear, the same rehired officials are now at the forefront of Napocor efforts to amend the Epira, particularly the provision that requires Napocor to sell all of its power generating plants.

How do they go about convincing legislators to amend the law that is supposed to reform the power industry?

Word goes around that the "mafia" is sharing the loot by offering coal tenders to politicos that, as everybody in Congress knows, have interests in coal trading firms.

It is a simple con game: They just overprice the coal tender at $120 per metric ton while the actual price in the world market is only about $65 to $70 per metric ton.

From what I heard, just one recent tender amounted to about 65,000 metric tons.

Aside from the overpricing, the sons of their mothers enjoy another windfall from the peso-dollar exchange rate, which is now at P44 per dollar.

Guess what exchange rate they used in the coal orders! Yes, P50 per dollar.

In other words, they get us with the coal overpricing and with the higher currency conversion rate. Thank you, boss!

* * *

CITING fuel shortage a few months ago, our beloved Napocor ordered five shiploads of coal at $84 per metric ton at an exchange rate of P50 per dollar—for a total cost of P1.4 billion.

At that time, coal only fetched $20 to $30 per metric ton in the world market. So where did the difference of $270 million for the shipment go?

That's the mystery that our lawmakers may not choose to unravel after all!

You see, Napocor solicited the price of $84 per ton in a letter issued by Napocor vice president and bids and awards committee chair Juan Carlos Guadaramma, dated March 29, 2007.

The award was made on April 2, 2007—or three days later. What speed! Such strange speed!

Maynilad seeks early exit from rehabilitation

Water concessionaire eager to start P26-B infra program

By Amy R. Remo

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES Inc. is seeking for an early decision on its petition to exit from rehabilitation, and enable the concessionaire to go full blast with its P26-billion capital expenditure program for the next five years.

An early rehab exit will allow Maynilad to become more flexible in handling its finances and fulfill its concession targets and obligations.

This will also help fund much needed projects to replace old pipes and reduce non-revenue water.

With the massive projects, Maynilad said it will be able to provide 100-percent coverage of the west zone with 24-hour water service at the global standard of 12 psi—the average water pressure at pounds per square inch—by the end of 2012.

In a statement, Maynilad president Rogelio Singson said the early rehab court approval will significantly improve the company's ability to fund its capex program.

He added that this will result in better services to its more than six million customers.

Maynilad COO Herbert Consunji added that the sooner the Rehabilitation Court decides on the concessionaire's petition to exit from rehabilitation, the better for residents of the west zone.

"This year alone, we are investing P5 billion to kick off the capex program to improve water service in Paco, Intramuros, Pandacan, Port Area and Baseco in Manila, among other areas in the West Zone, by replacing antiquated pipelines and facilities," Consunji said. "Imagine what we can do when the restrictions that we are operating in under rehabilitation will be lifted once we exit rehab."

Maynilad said the benefits of its recent projects in Binondo, Pandacan and Sta. Cruz, Manila are already being felt by residents in the area.

It said that water availability and pressure have increased after the pipes in these areas had been replaced.

Apart from the court decision, Maynilad is also waiting for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval for the prepayment of its foreign loans, and the acknowledgment for the Prepayment and Settlement Agreement and Transitional and Clarificatory Agreement by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, MWSS-Regulatory Office, Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and Maynilad's lenders.

Banana growers stand to make a bundle with Japan-RP pact

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry yesterday announced it was gearing up its export promotion activities, especially for banana varieties, in anticipation of opportunities that would open up with the implementation of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

Already, the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion has laid out a proposed five-year plan consisting of four major activities: trade fair and exhibitions; in-store promotion; as well as inbound and outbound business matching.

BETP projections show that, with these activities yielding about $11 million in export sales in 2006, the amount may be tripled once the Jpepa goes into full swing.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said that, with the approval of the agreement, varieties of fresh bananas other than Cavendish, such as señorita, latundan and lakatan, would find its way to the tables of Japanese consumers.

In 2006, Japan was the Philippines' top export destination for fresh Cavendish bananas, amounting to $168.87 million and accounting for 42-percent share of the Japanese market.

Aquino said that small farmers would greatly benefit with the opening of the Japanese market since they account for 80 percent to 90 percent of the land areas planted to señorita, lakatan, latundan and bungulan bananas.

These banana varieties are currently sold mainly in the domestic market and bulk of banana plantations could be found in parts of Luzon and Mindanao.

Citing data from the Department of Agriculture, DTI said the total production of bananas in the Philippines in 2006 reached 6.79 million metric tons.

Aquino said that, with the implementation of Jpepa, Japan would provide better market access for Philippine products in terms of increased tariff rate quotas (TRQs) and zero tariff rates.

However, he said significant export promotion groundwork should first be done so that the Philippines could maximize benefits from Jpepa, specifically for agricultural products.

For bananas, export promotion activities include participation in the Foodex in Tokyo, Japan, and collaboration with Japanese retailers to conduct in-store promotions to promote and create awareness for señorita and lakatan bananas.

The Philippines accounts for 10 percent of world output of bananas and 6 percent share of the world market.

S&P: RP credit upgrade hinges on tax measures

By Doris C. Dumlao

CREDIT WATCHDOG STANDARD & Poor's yesterday said an upgrade on the Philippine government's credit outlook to "positive" would hinge on whether new measures to boost revenue would be passed in Congress.

"The outlook on the ratings could again come under downward pressure in the event that a fiscal correction is endangered by a stalling of reforms, such that the government's balanced budget goals become unattainable and/or necessitate continued expenditure compression at the expense of future growth prospects," S&P analyst Agost Benard said in a report.

S&P currently rates Philippine sovereign debt at BB-, or three notches below investment grade, with a "stable" outlook.

A "positive" outlook indicates a possibility of an upgrade in the actual rating in 12 to 24 months.

Benard noted that the government's revenue collection in July and August had risen by 20 percent year-on-year, reversing the trend of shortfalls seen in the first six months.

"The fiscal outcome for this year has therefore become somewhat less predictable, depending on whether the rate of collection increases can be sustained for the rest of the year and on the amount of privatization revenues that will be realized," Benard said.

He said the official deficit target of 0.7 percent of gross domestic product, or P63 billion, which earlier looked unlikely, may still be met.

"Yet the fundamental question of widening the tax base and improving tax collection is yet to be satisfactorily addressed," he added.

According to the analyst, achievements in fiscal consolidation and public sector reforms has been factored in the current stable outlook on the sovereign rating.

Barring negative shocks or an adverse shift in policy, he said, these measures should allow a gradual decline in the debt of the national government and the public sector.

"The stable outlook, however, also reflects lingering uncertainties regarding the adequacy of the revenue base to provide a solid base for attaining the administration's stated goals of a balanced budget from 2008 onward and simultaneously executing its large capital-spending plans," Benard said.

As of July 2007, the national government's debt stock decreased by P18 billion from the end-June level to reach P3.76 trillion, based on latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury.

Of the total debt stock, P1.65 trillion, or 44 percent, was owed to foreign creditors and P2.11 trillion, or 56 percent, to domestic creditors.

The decrease in domestic debt of P4 billion was attributed to the net redemption of government securities, while the cut in the foreign debt of P14 billion was brought by the appreciation of the peso against the US dollar.

The exchange rate factor was, however, partially offset by the P1 billion net availment of new loans and the net depreciation of currencies against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the contingent debt of the national government, composed mainly of guarantees issued, declined to P526 billion, lower by P1 billion, from the end-June level of P527 billion. Again, the decline was influenced by the peso's appreciation against the dollar.

PAL receivership exit . . .

From page B1

syndrome (SARS).

Victorias Milling Corp. (VMC) chair Omar Mier, who is concurrently the president of another Tan controlled firm, Philippine National Bank (PNB), recalled the taipan's similar bailout of VMC, which was also poised to exit from its own rehabilitation program.

In 2003, Tan's rhum-making arm Tanduay Holdings Inc. granted a P300-million loan to VMC at concessional interest rates to help the country's biggest sugar miller kickstart its rehabilitation plan.

"An investor has to provide critical working capital since the existing creditors will not give additional credit lines [under a rehab scenario]," Mier said. "The third-party working capital is important so that creditors don't pull the rug from under the company's feet."

Mier also said that aside from a very supportive shareholder, critical to a company's successful rehabilitation exit was a realistic rehabilitation plan backed up by both creditors and shareholders as well as professional managers at the helm.

"It's ironic because PAL was forced to go under rehab because of a labor problem," Francisco said.

Francisco said that a cooperative PAL labor union also helped facilitate the airline's rehab exit, saying that Tan struck a 10-year truce with the labor union and allowed it representation in the board and a voice in management.

SEC milestone

The truce expires in two years, and it remains to be seen whether the union would assume a belligerent or cooperative stance vis-à-vis management.

The airline's story also marks a milestone for the country's corporate regulator.

PAL's graduation from rehabilitation is the first in the history of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is a testament to the fact that the government would not allow a multimillion-dollar company—virtually a one-firm industry at that time—to crash.

"This is no less than the flag carrier of the Philippines," SEC commission secretary Gerard Lukban said. "Just imagine how many employees they have and the businesses that depend on the airline for cargo [if the rehabilitation plan failed]."

Having shed the shackles of receivership, however, PAL is now poised to expand its operations to be able to better compete in the cutthroat airline industry.

PAL president Jaime F. Bautista said the airline was set to evaluate new types of aircraft to replace eight Airbus A330s that it currently uses for regional routes.

"These aircraft are getting old so we would need new ones soon," he said, explaining that the company previously had to secure approval from each creditor for even the smallest corporate policy while under receivership. "Now, we could start making decisions faster."

The airline would also focus on improving its in-flight and customer services, which he admitted, had fallen behind the fast-growing industry in recent years because PAL had to operate on a spartan "survival mode."

Bautista said the next few years for PAL would mean new planes, more routes and better service—not bad for a company that has struggled for the better part of the last decade.

Peso hits new 7-year ...

From page B1

"It's still mostly equity flows," a banker said.

This developed as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the Philippines attracted $1.6 billion in net foreign direct investments from January to July this year, up by 70 percent from the level a year ago, on improving business sentiment in the country.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that for the month of July alone, the country generated $419 million in net FDIs, a turnaround from the $79 million in net outflow seen in the same month last year.

"It is expected that the continued solid performance of the economy and the improvement in underlying economic policies will encourage foreign direct investments in the medium term," Tetangco said.

Unlike portfolio investments which are more volatile, FDI flows represent investments in businesses that are capital- and usually labor-intensive such as those spent in building new factories, power plants, mining ventures or other enterprises. They are considered the least volatile form of financial flows.

Tetangco said the jump in net FDIs in July was due to the rising inflow from intercompany lending between foreign direct investors and their local subsidiaries and affiliates.

Foreign equity capital investments also reversed to a net inflow of $80 million in July from a net outflow of $192 million a year ago.

For the seven-month period, net foreign equity capital flows amounted to $1.7 billion compared to $589 million a year ago, mostly coming from the United States, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong.

Tetangco said the investments were channeled mostly to the manufacturing, services, construction, mining, real estate, financial intermediation and agricultural industries.

The manufacturing subsectors that benefited from the fresh investments were producers of electronics, health and chemical products, garments, food, automotive sensors and decorative arts.

International courier, information technology development and multimedia services were likewise big recipients of FDIs.

Stocks jump 1.6%

From page B1

Banco de Oro-EPCI.

The US Fed is to hold a two-day meeting beginning Oct. 30. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' next policy meeting is set for Nov. 15.

Among the most actively traded stocks was Manila Water, which hit a fresh trading high of P17.25. It finished up P1.25 at P16.50.

"Manila Water's earnings performance looks pretty good and sustainable, given its expansion plans," Aguila said.

Manila Water, a unit of conglomerate Ayala Corp., reported last week a 10-percent increase in net profit for the third quarter to P641 million, backed by higher sales.

The country's three biggest banks advanced, with Banco de Oro-EPCI leading the pack with a gain of P3.50 to settle at P67. Bank of the Philippine Islands rose P1.50 to P71.50, and Metropolitan Bank Trust Co. jumped P2.50 to P65.50. *AFP*

SLEX loan ready–IFC

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE WORLD BANK'S INTERnational Finance Corp. said the P2.5-billion loan for the rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) is ready for disbursement but the Malaysian contractor has not asked for the money.

IFC acting country manager Jessie Ang told the INQUIRER that MTD Manila Expressway, a subsidiary of Malaysian investor MTD Berhad, has until Dec. 31, 2007 to ask for the first partial disbursement of the loan.

"It is a business decision. The assumption is that the client (MTD) will ask for the funds when it can best use the money. So far they have not asked for the first tranche. But it is ready," he said.

Ang dismissed speculation that IFC had refused to disburse the money to MTD because its partner in the rehabilitation project, state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), failed to renew its 30-year franchise to operate SLEX.

But sources in the construction industry insisted that MTD was suffering from a cash problem because its lenders had refused to release the loans until PNCC's franchise was renewed.

They said construction works on the expressway slowed recently and attributed this to MTD's lack of funds to pay contractors FFCruz and BSPonio to do more than minimal work. With construction works slowing down, motorists have complained about the heavy traffic in the area, which lasted more than three hours during afternoon.

MTD spokesperson Alma Tuason said it was not money problems but the rains that were interrupting construction works.

Ecozone investments surge

'07 goal of P100B surpassed

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC Zone Authority has reported a sharp increase in the amount of investments registered with the agency, breaching its 2007 target as of the first nine months of the year.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Peza Director General Lilia B. de Lima said registered investments reached P109 billion at the end of the third quarter, representing an 88-percent hike from the level in the same period last year.

Peza's target for the whole year was set at P100 billion.

De Lima said the sharp rise was due mainly to the reinvestment of earnings by existing locators.

She said the decision of US-based electronics firm Texas Instruments to build a $1-billion facility in the country also added to the increase. She, however, explained only the first-year investment of the company was recorded by Peza.

At the end of August, De Lima said the number of employees in the ecozones rose by 4 percent, while the total value of exports rose 16 percent.

De Lima said her agency observed a 97- to 98-percent "success rate" for the total amount of registered investments, meaning that the majority of firms which commit to invest in ecozones follow through with actual investments.

Despite the strong performance for the first three quarters of the year, De Lima said the investments figure would surely rise further as there are "several" investments—protected by confidentiality agreements—currently in the pipeline of the agency.

She added that the amount of Peza-registered investments would likely grow by "at least" 20 percent in 2008, maintaining a streak that started soon after the world economy recovered from the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the US.

De Lima also made a pitch for the controversial Japan-Philippines Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), saying that it would likely boost trade and investments between the two countries further.

"Japanese companies are already among Peza's biggest [locators]," she said. "We could see more investments with [the implementation of] Jpepa."

Peza-listed projects are qualified to avail themselves of incentives such as exemption from corporate income tax for four years, extendable to a maximum of eight years; perks under the Build-Operate-Transfer Law that include government support for accessing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other sources of financing; access to vital off-site infrastructure facilities, and the option to pay a special 5 percent gross income tax in lieu of all national and local taxes.

Ecozone developers and locators can also avail themselves of exemption from duties and taxes on imported capital equipment, spare parts, supplies and raw materials; exemption from wharfage dues and export taxes, imposts and fees; permanent resident status for foreign investors and immediate family members; employment of foreign nationals, and simplified import and export procedures.

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PNOC-EDC potential bidders down to 16

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL bidders for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp. has gone down to 16 from the 24 that had submitted letters of interest.

PNOC president Antonio Cailao said the 16 entities were those that met the Oct. 5 deadline for the submission of the initial pre-qualification requirements and passed the first screening process.

The list of the pre-qualified bidders should have been released yesterday, but Cailao said the PNOC Privatization Committee had decided to give the 16 entities a few more days to submit additional minor requirements.

"Of the initial 24, eight have fallen off so we now have 16 potential bidders. But this number could still go down by the time the Privacom finishes its review of all the submitted requirements. Some had some very minor requirements that were lacking, such as board resolutions, so we decided to give them a few more days to submit these," he told the INQUIRER.

He declined to name the 16 entities, saying it was better to just wait for the list of those that passed the initial screening. This list should be out on or before Oct. 15, he said.

Among the 16 that submitted initial pre-qualification requirements were listed firms Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., Aboitiz Power Corp. and Filinvest Development Corp., which submitted a letter of interest through ABN Amro Bank.

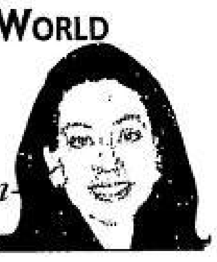
Other companies that had expressed interest in PNOC-EDC included Africa Israel Group-Asia Pacific, American Orient Capital Partners (Philippines) Inc., Ashmore Energy, ATN Holdings Inc., Basic Energy Corp., First Gen Corp., Geysir Green Energy and International Power Plc., Kanematsu Corp., Latham & Watkins LLP, Marubeni Philippines Corp. and One Energy Ltd.

Those that will make the initial cut will be required to submit final qualification documents by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26. Prequalified bidders will be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids.

The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of 100 percent of the bid price to be remitted by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.

Paths to peace

MINDANAWORLD



Joji Ilagan-Bian

SMALL ACTIVITIES ARE USUally neglected because of the belief that their impact is not as huge as that of well-funded events that always get the attention of both the local and international press.

However, there are many of these small initiatives in Mindnao that have become catalysts of developments.

I am referring to the latest peace dialogue held in Sultan Kudarat in Central Mindanao last month during the celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month.

The event brought together key government officials to discuss activities that would enhance attempts to come up with a peace agreement between the government and the Moro rebel groups. It also conveyed a strong message to the community that everyone has a stake in the pursuit of peace.

The event featured a jobs fair, the arrival of the bikers for peace led by Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez and the peace forum, which had several speakers voicing out their support for the quest for peace.

Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process Jesus Dureza was there to answer questions from representatives from various communities.

Peace efforts

The event was among those defined under Executive Order 125 series of 2004, or the Defining the Approach and Administrative Structure for the Government's Comprehensive Peace Efforts. The order provides the framework for the government's comprehensive peace process, based on three underlying principles and pursued along with its six components, more commonly known as the Six Paths to Peace.

These principles specify that the peace process must be community-based to reflect the sentiments of the communities and their norms. These also point out that the process must seek "to forge a new social compact for a just, equitable, humane and pluralistic society, as well as a principled and peaceful resolution of the armed conflicts.

The six paths to peace are the pursuit of social, economic and political reforms; consensus building and empowerment for peace; pursuit of peaceful, negotiated settlement with rebel groups; reconciliation, rehabilitation and reintegration into mainstream society; addressing concerns relative to continuing conflict, and building a positive climate for peace.

Support for peace

In her state of the nation address in 2004, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pointed out that peace must be achieved as what was embodied in the National Peace Plan under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010.

Earlier that month, the Mindanao Economic and Development Council (Medco) and the United States Agency for International Development signed a $190-million aid aimed at sustaining peace and development in the next five years.

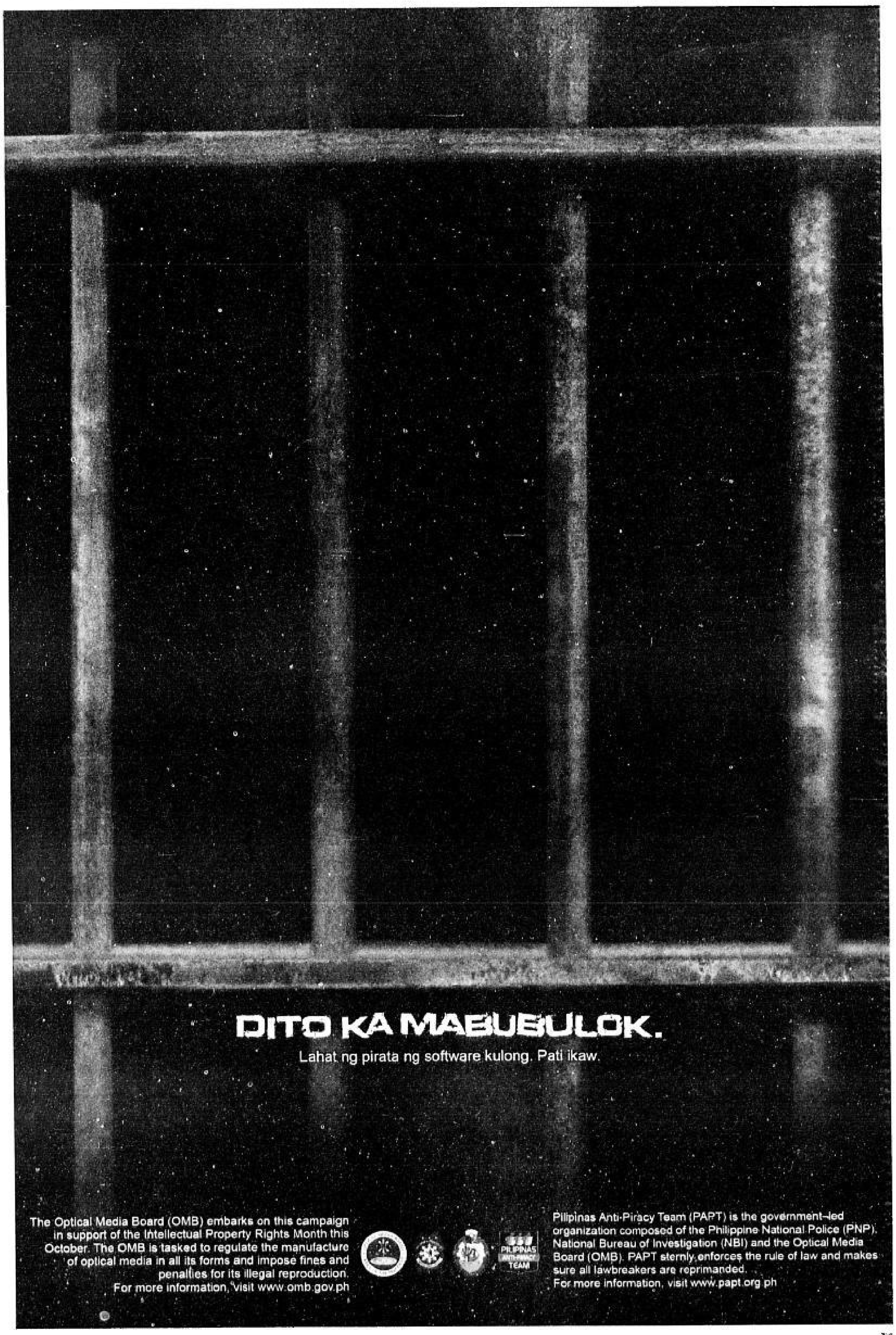
The program is a joint effort of the two countries for the improvement of the island's infrastructure facilities, governance and social services. Also to be supported by the program is the expansion of economic opportunities in conflict-affected areas.

I believe that alongside the negotiations with rebel groups, the affected communities must also be consulted and regarded as among the stakeholders. They also must be considered the prime movers in implementing development interventions because they know what their constituents need.

Their willingness to participate in the quest for peace will really matter considering that no peace agreement will be achieved if they think it is oppressive to their sensibilities.

The sustainability of peace in an area does not depend on the government or any group. It is the people themselves in the community that will make it work. Otherwise, peace will continue to remain elusive.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for the development of Mindanao. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)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Mercedes Laus-Aliño

died in God's grace on October 10, 2007 at the age of 93

She will always be lovingly remembered by her children & in-laws: **Teresa Aliño-Gomez**; **Engr. Antonio & Josefina Aliño**; **Dir. Gen. Santiago & Norma Aliño**; **Gen. George & Encarnacion Aliño** and **Cesar & Dinah Aliño**; grandchildren & their spouses **Marco & Miriam**; **Emmanuel & Marie** and **Oriel**; **Jose Antonio, Frederick** and **Margaret Ann**; **Alfric & Maricar, Adelbert & Arlyn** and **James Abdiel**; **Marie Kristel, George II, Ryan** and **Gerard**; **Jason**; **Dominic & Patrick**; great-grandchildren: **Francois**; **Jasmin & Jordan**; relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington East Memorial Chapel, Raymundo cor. Mercedes Sts., Pasig City, until October 11 at 8:00 pm, afterwhich, she will be brought to Boac, Marinduque for interment.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE: PETITION FOR DIRECT CONNECTION OF ELECTRIC POWER WITH THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION AND/OR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO).

ERC CASE NO. 2006-156 MC

TECHNOLOGY LIVELIHOOD AND RESOURCE CENTER (TLRC).
Petitioner,
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on December 8, 2006 and May 21, 2007, Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) filed a Petition and a Supplement Petition, respectively, for direct connection with the National Power Corporation (NPC) through the transmission system of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO).

The Commission has set the Petition and Supplemental Petition for initial hearing and pre-trial conference, on October 23, 2007 (Tuesday) at nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 a.m.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing at least five (5 days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the Petition and Supplemental Petition or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the petitioner concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied open.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the Petition and Supplemental Petition may request the petitioner, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the Petition and Supplemental Petition. The petitioner is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the Petition and Supplemental Petition and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the Petition and Supplemental Petition and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS , the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman, and Honorable Commissioners, RAUF A. TAN, ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA and JOSE C. REYES, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 24th day of September 2007 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN**
Executive Director

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO BID

CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY (CLSU) hereby invites qualified bidders to bid for the lease of 3,200 square meters area located in front of the CLSU Main Gate, along Maharlika Highway. The area is intended to be a Business Center appropriate for gasoline station, fastfood/restaurant, products emporium, grocery store, souvenir and gift shop, and coffee shop.

The appraised rental is P100 per square meter.

Prospective bidders shall submit Letter of Intent and the 2006 audited Financial Report of their company on October 12-16, 2007 to the Head of the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee at Procurement Office.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
Eligibility Checking	October 17, 2007
Evaluation of Eligibility Requirements	October 18, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	October 19-25, 2007
Pre-bid Conference	October 25, 2007; 2:00 P.M. Administration Conference Room
Opening of Bids	October 30, 2007; 2:00 P.M. Administration Conference Room

The Central Luzon State University reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to Contract Award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) TERESO A. ABELLA
Chairman Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 11, 2007)

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), through its Approved Corporate Budget for 2007, intends to apply the sum of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 1,460,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the refurbishing of existing Office Furniture and Fixtures and the Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Office Furniture, Fixtures and Roller Shades for the Social Housing Finance Corporation under Project Number 2007-03. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The SHFC now invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to participate in the bidding of the hereunder project:

Name of Project	The Refurbishing of all existing Office Furniture and Fixtures and the Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Office Furniture, Fixtures and Roller Shades for the Social Housing Finance Corporation. *The lots are as follows:* **Lot 1:** The Refurbishing of All Existing Office Furniture and Fixtures of the Social Housing Finance Corporation located at the Mezzanine, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th Floors of the BDO Plaza **Lot 2:** The Supply and Fabrication of various Furniture and Fixtures and the Installation of Roller Shades for the Executive Offices, the offices of their Staff, and the SHFC Board Room **Lot 3:** The Re-upholstery of the existing Executive Chairs with Arm Rest and Back Rest located at the SHFC Board Room
Location	BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Contract Duration	One (1) month upon receipt of Notice to Proceed
Delivery Period	Lots 1 & 2: Thirty (30) days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed Lot 3: Fifteen (15) days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

The Description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from SHFC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,500.00. The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

The SHFC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 18, 2007; 2:00 p.m. at 5th Flr., BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security either in the form of cash, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in the amount of Php 14,600.00. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on November 6, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at 5th Flr., BDO Plaza, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The SHFC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
Ofelia Millarez, BAC Secretariat
6th Floor, BDO Plaza, 8737, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel Nos. 7506346-47, locals 320-322
Fax No. 8173168
E-mail Add: info@shfcph.com
Website Add: www.shfcph.com

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. MANICIO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 11, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
FIELD OFFICE VII
M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
Telephone Nos. (6332) 232-9507 ; Telefax (6332) 231-2172
Email: **dswdro7@cvis.net.ph**
Website: **http://www.dswd.gov.ph/**

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

HIRING OF SECURITY SERVICES
Approved Budget Contract – P3,200.000.00

1 The *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City,* through the *General Appropriations Act* intends to apply the sum of *THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (P 3,200,000.00)* PESOS being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *HIRING OF SECURITY SERVICES* covering the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Hiring of SECURITY SERVICES.* Delivery of the GOODS is required by *January 1, 2008.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 24, 2007.*

A complete set of *Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders starting October 24, 2007* from the address below and upon presentation of a *Letter of Intent* and *payment of a non-refundable fee* in the amount of *One Thousand (P1,000.00) Pesos.* The method of payment will be *on a Cash basis payable at the Cash Unit.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 12, 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor DSWD Field Office VII.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *2:00 P.M. on December 3, 2007.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or Bank Guarantee equivalent to one percent (1%) of ABC; or a Bank Guarantee which is equal to one and a half percent (1 ½%) of ABC or Surety Bond of two and a half percent (2 ½%) valid for 120 days.* Late Bids shall not be accepted

8. Bid opening shall be on *December 3, 2007* at *2:00 P.M., 2nd Floor, DSWD Field Office VII, Conference Room, M.J. Cuenco corner Gen. Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

9. *Request for clarification of the Bidding Documents will only be entertained by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) until November 21, 2007.*

10. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

11.

Name of Office	*Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII, Cebu City*
Name of Contact Person	*Mr. Marcial G. Fernandez or* *Mr. Edward P. Dapiton*
Postal Address	*DSWD Field Office VII* *M.J. Cuenco cor. Gen. Maxilom Avenue* *Cebu City, 6000*
Telephone No.	*(032) 233-0261 / 412-9908*
Fax No.	*(032) 412-9908*

A brief description of the type(s) of GOODS should be provided, including quantities, location of project, and other information necessary to enable potential bidders to decide whether or not to respond to the invitation.

(Sgd.) CLARA NEMIA C. ANTIPALA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 11 & 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Region X
Province of Lanao Del Norte
Gov. Arcenio A. Quibranza Government Center
Pigcarangan, Tubud, Lanao del Norte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte is hereby inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of various medicines, medical supplies and medical equipment for the upgrading of Provincial Hospital of Lanao del Norte (DOH Funding)

Approved budget: P 3,071,940.00
VVVVVVVVVV

PARTICULAR	DATE
Issuance of eligibility requirements	Oct. 17, 2007
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility requirements	Oct. 23, 2007
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of non-refundable Fee of P 2,500.00	Oct. 26, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 31, 2007
Submission and Opening of Bids	Nov. 5, 2007

For any inquiry, please call BAC Secretariat, Telephone No. 063-341-5623.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The Province of Lanao Del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and waive any informality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte. The Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidder on the preparation of their respective bids nor does the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MILDRED J. HINGCO**
BAC-Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 11, 2007)

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COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the
BARANGAY and SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS
starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 *(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)* **from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m** *(except on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight)* at the Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality.

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Employees Council, and Staff of

UNILAB

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.

join family, relatives, and friends of

CONRADO S. DAYRIT, M.D.

in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Dr. Dayrit, formerly Operating Vice President of Unilab Medical Affairs Division, peacefully passed on to Eternal Life on October 6, 2007 at the age of 88.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City. Interment will be on October 12, Friday, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8 a.m. Mass at Sanctuario de San Jose.

Managing organization-based conflict

THE EMPLOYERS CONfederation of the Philippines (ECOP) is set to conduct a Workshop on Managing Organization-Based Conflict on Oct. 17, at the ECOP Board Room, Makati City.

This workshop is ingeniously designed to help employees manage interpersonal differences that impair teamwork, quality, decision-making and cooperation in the organization.

More than just a training seminar, this practical program contains resources for changing organizational culture.

The competencies to be learned in this workshop include: understanding the nature and true causes of organizational conflict; identifying one's dominant conflict management style; reflecting on one's own reflexes to conflict and how they have helped/ hindered in managing conflicts in the organization; managing organizational conflicts effectively and successfully.

For inquiries, call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 0906-5552995, 899-0411 local 116 or at fax no. 895-8623 or e-mail at training@ecop.org.ph.

Pre-registration is required. Upon receipt of registration by e-mail, a billing statement complete with full details for accounting purposes will be sent to the participants.

You are gone...
But for us you never left...
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our hearts.

ANUNCITO "CHITO" A. AGUILUCHO

January 22, 1936 - October 10, 2007

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 71.

His wife **Luz**; children **Lucille & Rico, Lorna & Erwin, Allan & Jo** and **Gel**; grandchildren **Marco, Edsel, Ericka, Niccolo, Annika, Alaina, Adrian** and **Alicia**; brothers, sisters, in-laws together with our other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, #12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

PEDRO A. FELIX JR.

peacefully joined his Creator on October 9, 2007 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Zenaida**; children **Chito & Misty, Manny & Peachie, Lawrence & Leigh-Ann, Irene & Dennis** and **Xavier**; grandchildren; brothers & sisters **Belle, Mimie, Teddy, Lala, Victor** and **Roman**; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on October 13, 2007, Saturday, at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

So deeply loved, and so sorely missed ...
On the 73rd Birth Anniversary of

JOHNSON ROBERT L. GO, SR.

(October 11, 1934 – December 1, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Basilica Minore, *Piat, Cagayan*	8:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, *Greenmeadows, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Chapel, *Eastwood, Libis, Q.C.*	12:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, *Greenhills West, San Juan*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church, *Broadway, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills East, San Juan*	6:15 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, *EDSA Cor. Ortigas Avenue, Q.C.*	6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Bel Air, Makati City*	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, *Manjuyod, Negros Oriental*	6:00 a.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, *Cuenca Street, Alabang*	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Cathedral, *Tuguegarao City*	6:00 a.m.

The JRL Go Children's Memorial Library continues to honor Johnson's memory through its book donation program for local public schools and under-privileged children. This year we give special thanks to Xavier School, Silliman University, and the Patawaran family for their invaluable support.

Johnson will always be gratefully remembered for the gift of his love, and for sharing his warmth, gentleness, and understanding with those who had the good fortune of knowing him during his lifetime.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos.: 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
DANTE SANTILLAN	Chapel - 7	October 11, 2007 9:00 a.m.	La Loma Cem. Cal.
DOMINADOR REA	Chapel - 11	October 14, 2007 11:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory

---

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

—2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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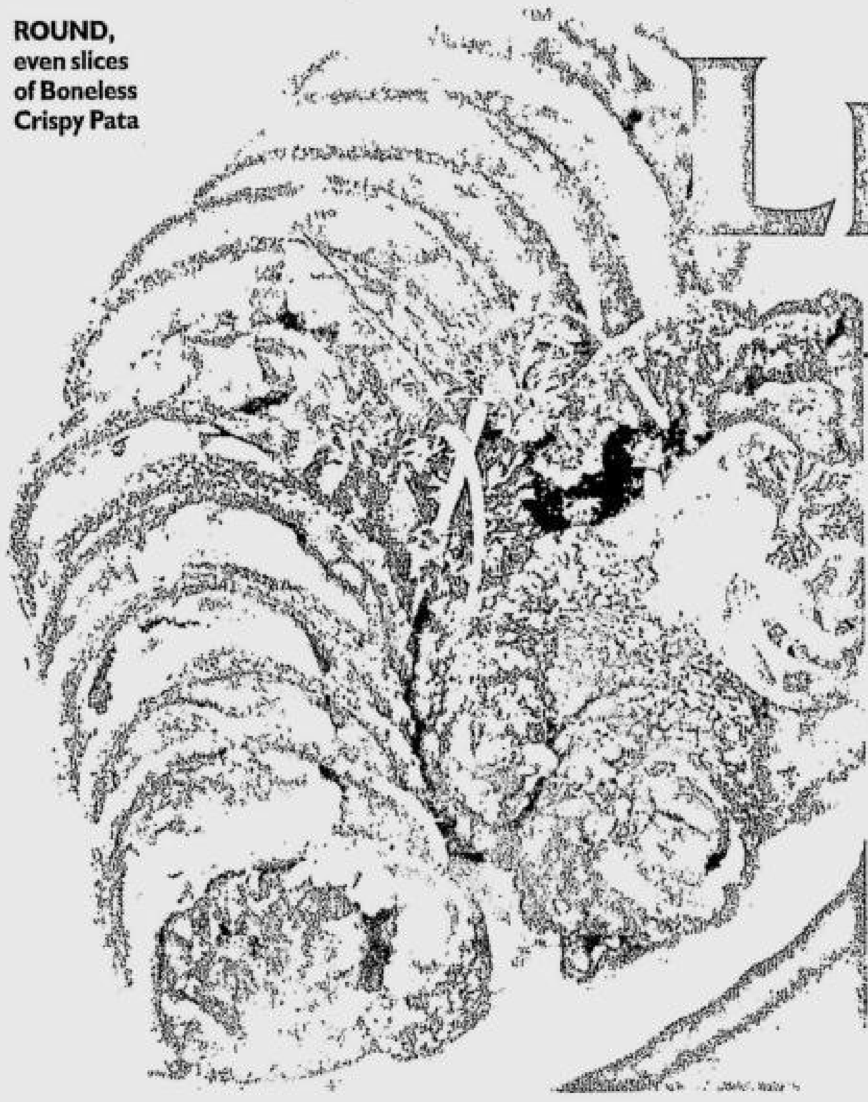
THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & F



ROUND, even slices of Boneless Crispy Pata

Well worth the long wait

Choa has always dreamed of opening a different kind of Filipino restaurant

BANANA Langka Float

Text by Fran Katigbak
Photos by Ryan Lim

THERE IS GOOD REASON some inspired Pinoy cooking simmers every day at Finio restaurant on Tomas Morato.

After all, the place was a big childhood dream that took so long to fulfill.

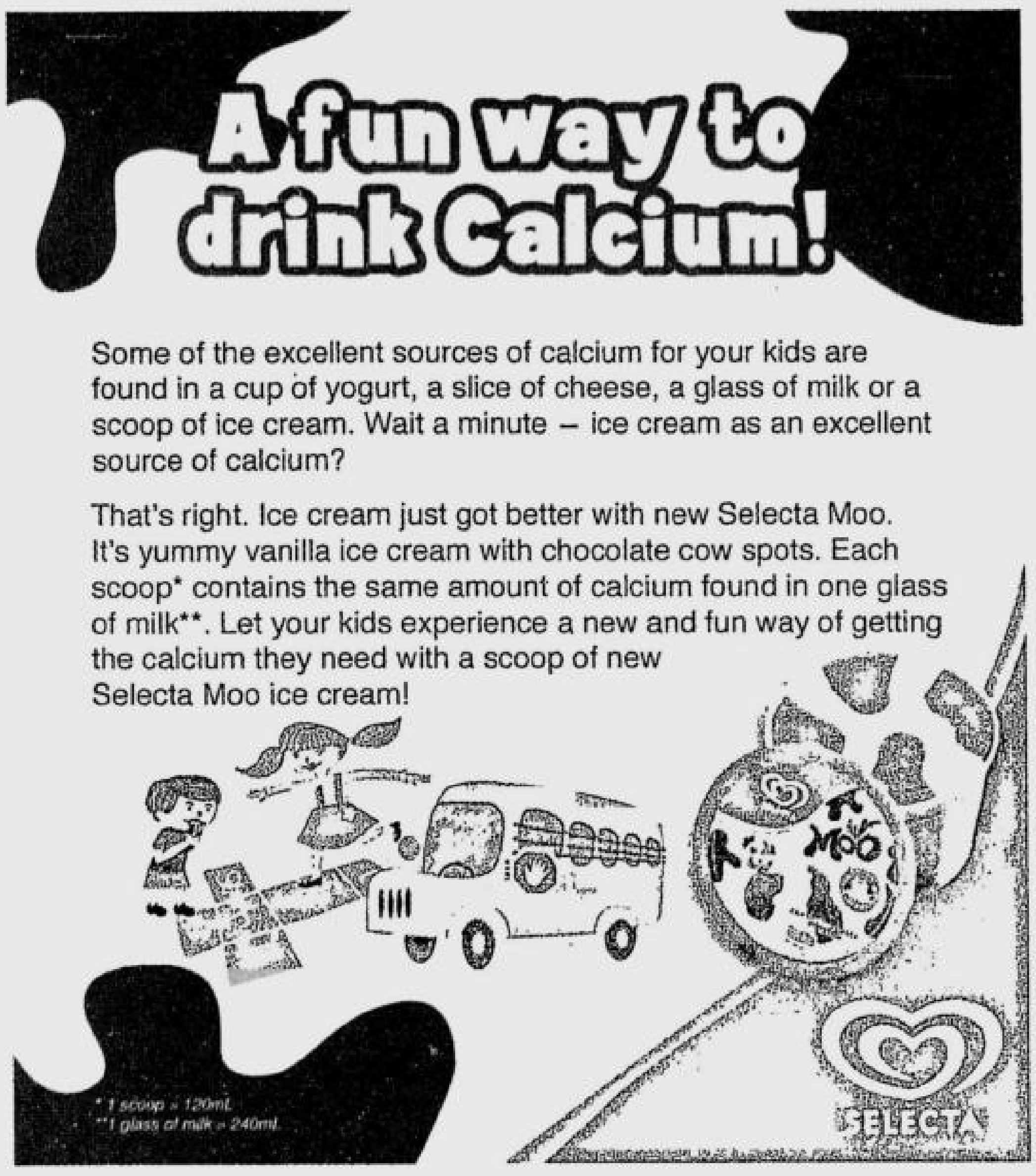
"I grew up with Pinoy food as my favorite," says proprietor Jerald Ong Choa, who has Chinese-Filipino roots. "Ever since I was young, I told myself I would one day open a restaurant where local cuisine would be served."

But Choa had to set aside his culinary fantasies when his mom insisted that he took up Commerce in college. After graduation, he even spent eight years working in the family's textile business.

The aspiring restaurateur, however, would not give up his dream and, with the help of four of his siblings, opened a café in Makati.

WELL/ C3

WHAT'S ON ROBINSONS
Rock on with this band's alternative tunes!
PUPIL
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com



A fun way to drink Calcium!

Some of the excellent sources of calcium for your kids are found in a cup of yogurt, a slice of cheese, a glass of milk or a scoop of ice cream. Wait a minute – ice cream as an excellent source of calcium?

That's right. Ice cream just got better with new Selecta Moo. It's yummy vanilla ice cream with chocolate cow spots. Each scoop* contains the same amount of calcium found in one glass of milk**. Let your kids experience a new and fun way of getting the calcium they need with a scoop of new Selecta Moo ice cream!

* 1 scoop = 120mL
** 1 glass of milk = 240mL

SELECTA

SELECTA

All the calcium in a glass of milk can be found in a fun scoop of MOO

1 scoop = Calcium
In one glass of milk (240 mg Calcium per serving)

Have a fun Moo Time with your kids!

Did you know that one scoop* of Selecta Moo ice cream lets your kids get the same amount of calcium as one glass of milk**? Now you'll definitely have a fun Moo Time with your kids!

* 1 scoop = 120mL
** 1 glass of milk = 240mL

P85* 750mL
P170* 1.8L
* Suggested Retail Price

Nadine Tengco
US Certified
Fitness Nutritionist

The Calcium Spot

During childhood and adolescence, the body uses the mineral calcium to build strong and healthy bones – a process that is completed by the end of the teen years. Unfortunately, 9 out of 10 adolescent girls and 7 out of 10 adolescent boys fail to meet the recommended calcium intake of 1300 mg for children and adolescents 9 -18 yrs. Barely 70% of girls and 60% of boys, ages 4-8 yrs. meet their calcium target of 800 mg/day.

Calcium is the most plentiful mineral in the human body. It is vital for bone health – 99% of the calcium in the body is stored in the bones and teeth. The remaining 1% is in the blood and soft tissues. This tiny 1% of calcium plays an important role in heart health, muscle contraction, transmitting messages through the nerves, and is essential for blood to clot.

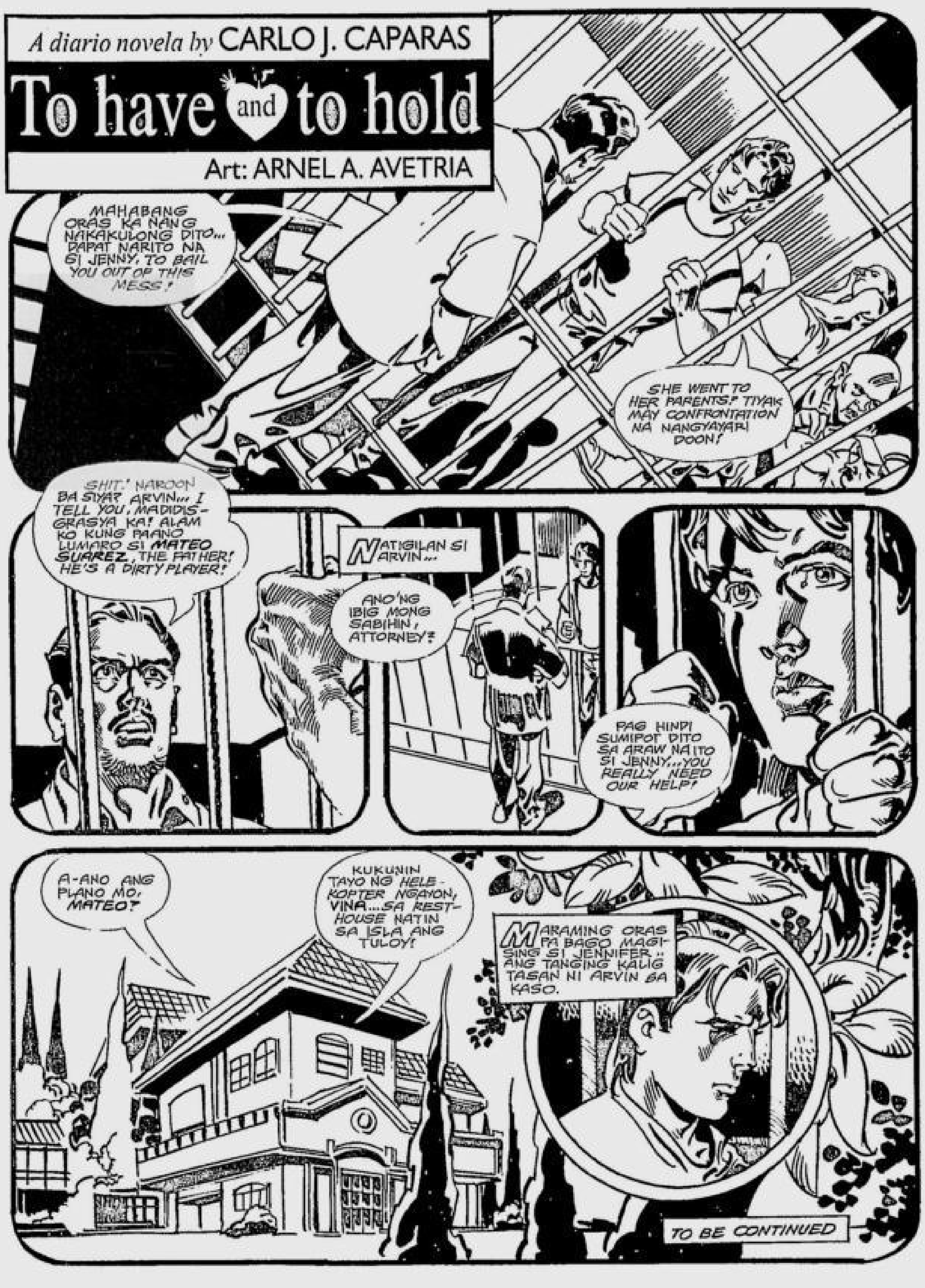
There are only 2 ways to get this essential 1% of circulating calcium: from calcium in ingested food or from calcium in the bone. If blood calcium levels are low due to inadequate dietary calcium intake, calcium is taken from the bones to ensure normal cell function.

The need for increased calcium acquisition and storage begins very early in life. Since calcium is better absorbed during the pubertal years, children and adolescents should use this period in their lives to invest in their later health.

Milk and other dairy products are among the best and most convenient sources of calcium. All milk, from skim to whole, contains about the same amount of calcium per serving – as much as 300mg per 240mL glass. However, not every child can or will consume milk or dairy products. Fortunately, there are now a number of food products such as breads, cereals or orange juice that are fortified with calcium. There is no apparent difference between eating calcium-enriched foods and foods that are naturally rich in calcium.

Look for fun and creative ways to include calcium in your child's diet:

o Add pizzazz to regular milk by adding a touch of chocolate or strawberry syrup
o Create colorful parfaits with layers of yogurt or ice cream, fruit and whole grain cereal
o Create fun mini-pizzas by topping bagels or muffins with pizza sauce, cheese, vegetables and grilled chicken
o Use whole grain taco or tortillas to make healthy wraps or burritos. Fill them with eggs and cheese for breakfast; chicken, cheese, lettuce, tomato and salsa for lunch or dinner.



A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

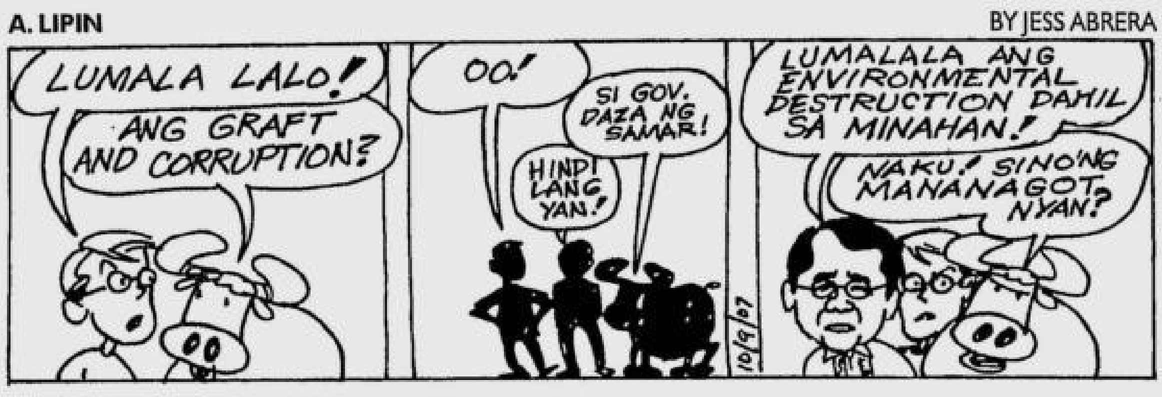
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

MAHABANG ORAS KA NANG NAKAKULONG DITO... DAPAT NARITO NA SI JENNY, TO BAIL YOU OUT OF THIS MESS!
SHE WENT TO HER PARENTS!? TIYAK MAY CONFRONTATION NA NANGYAYARI DOON!
SHIT! NAROON BA SIYA? ARVIN... I TELL YOU, MADIDIS-GRASYA KA! ALAM KO KUNG PAANO LUMARO SI MATEO SUAREZ, THE FATHER! HE'S A DIRTY PLAYER!
NATIGILAN SI ARVIN...
ANO'NG IBIG MONG SABIHIN, ATTORNEY?
PAG HINDI SUMIPOT DITO SA ARAW NA ITO SI JENNY... YOU REALLY NEED OUR HELP!
A-ANO ANG PLANO MO, MATEO?
KUKUNIN TAYO NG HELE-KOPTER NGAYON, VINA... SA REST-HOUSE NATIN SA ISLA ANG TULOY!
MARAMING ORAS PA BAGO MAGI-SING SI JENNIFER .. ANG TANGING KALIG TASAN NI ARVIN SA KASO.
TO BE CONTINUED

A. LIPIN

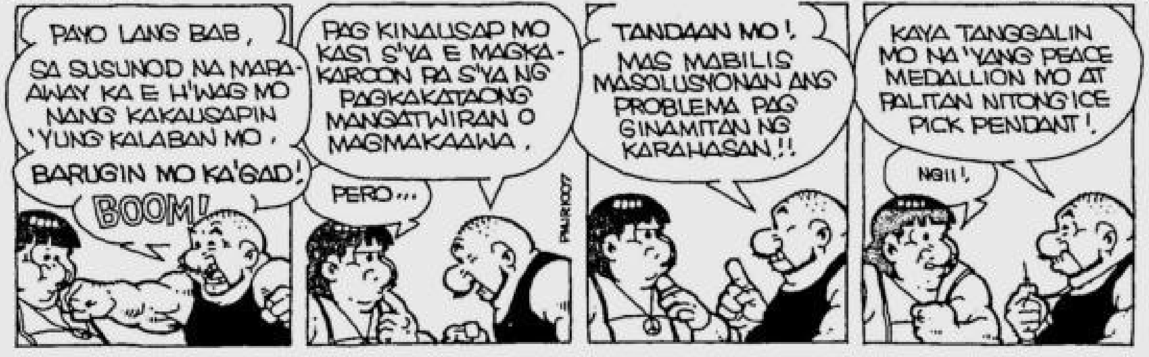
BY JESS ABRERA



LUMALA LALO!
ANG GRAFT AND CORRUPTION?
OO!
SI GOV. DAZA NG SAMAR!
HINDI LANG YAN!
10/9/07
LUMALALA ANG ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION DAHIL SA MINAHAN!
NAKU! SINO'NG MANANAGOT NYAN?

PUGAD BABOY

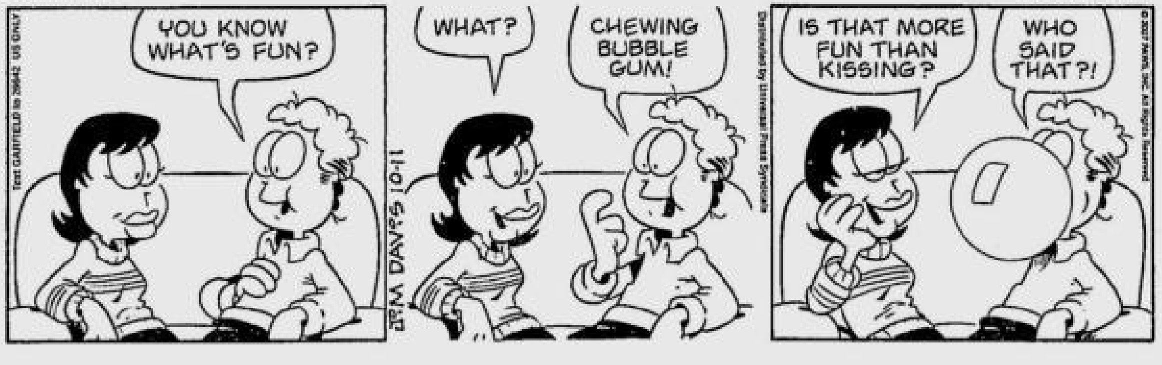
BY P.M. JUNIOR



PAYO LANG BAB,
SA SUSUNOD NA MAPA-AWAY KA E H'WAG MO NANG KAKAUSAPIN 'YUNG KALABAN MO,
BARUGIN MO KA'GAD!
BOOM!
PAG KINAUSAP MO KASI S'YA E MAGKA-KAROON PA S'YA NG PAGKAKATAONG MANGATWIRAN O MAGMAKAAWA.
PERO...
PMJR2007
TANDAAN MO!. MAS MABILIS MASOLUSYONAN ANG PROBLEMA PAG GINAMITAN NG KARAHASAN.!!
KAYA TANGGALIN MO NA 'YANG PEACE MEDALLION MO AT PALITAN NITONG ICE PICK PENDANT!
NGII!,

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



YOU KNOW WHAT'S FUN?
WHAT?
CHEWING BUBBLE GUM!
JIM DAVIS 10-11
IS THAT MORE FUN THAN KISSING?
WHO SAID THAT?!
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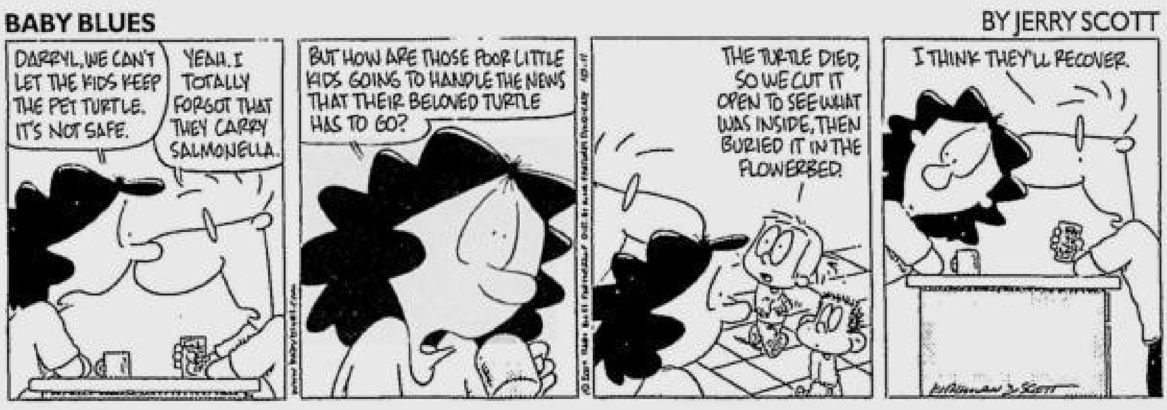
BABY BLUES

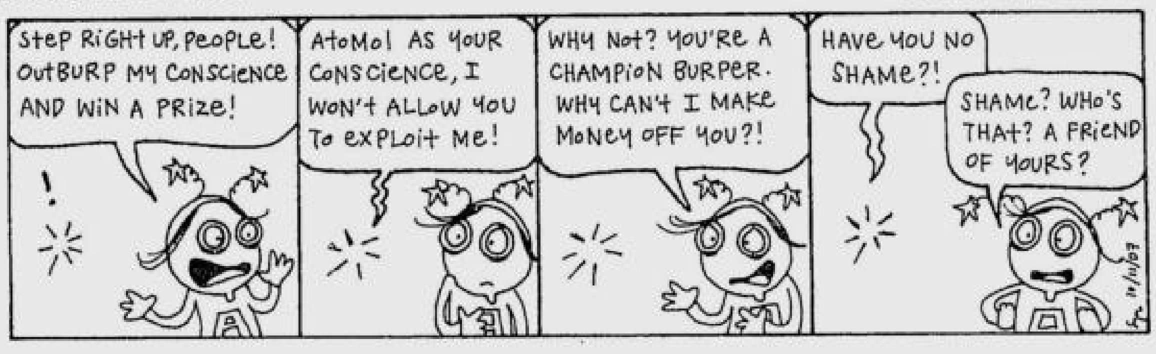
BY JERRY SCOTT



DARRYL, WE CAN'T LET THE KIDS KEEP THE PET TURTLE. IT'S NOT SAFE.
YEAH, I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT THEY CARRY SALMONELLA.
BUT HOW ARE THOSE POOR LITTLE KIDS GOING TO HANDLE THE NEWS THAT THEIR BELOVED TURTLE HAS TO GO?
THE TURTLE DIED, SO WE CUT IT OPEN TO SEE WHAT WAS INSIDE, THEN BURIED IT IN THE FLOWERBED.
I THINK THEY'LL RECOVER.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

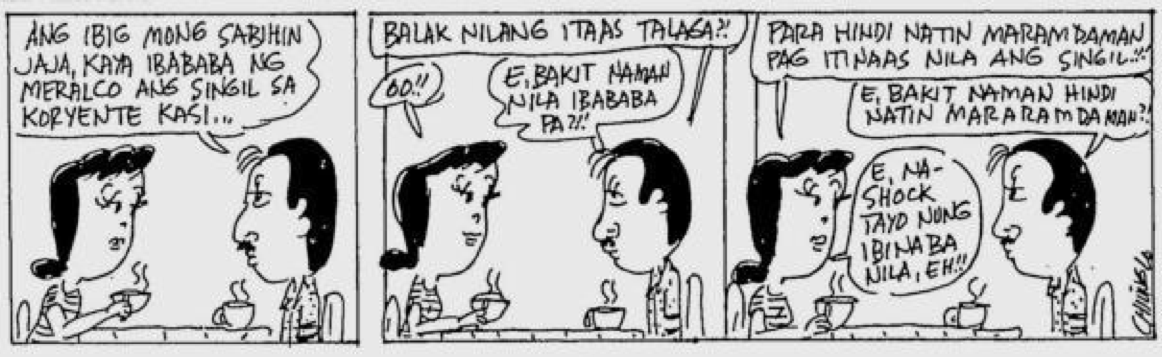
BY LYRA GARCELLANO



Step RiGht UP, PeOPLe! OUtBURP MY CONSCieNCe AND WiN A PRiZe!
AtoMo! AS YOUR CONSCieNCe, I WON'T ALLOW YOU To eXPLOit Me!
WHY Not? YOU'Re A CHAMPiON BURPeR. WHY CAN'T I MAKe MONeY OFF YOU?!
HAVe YOU NO SHAMe?!
SHAMe? WHO'S THAt? A FRieND OF YOURS?
11/11/07

LOVEKNOTS

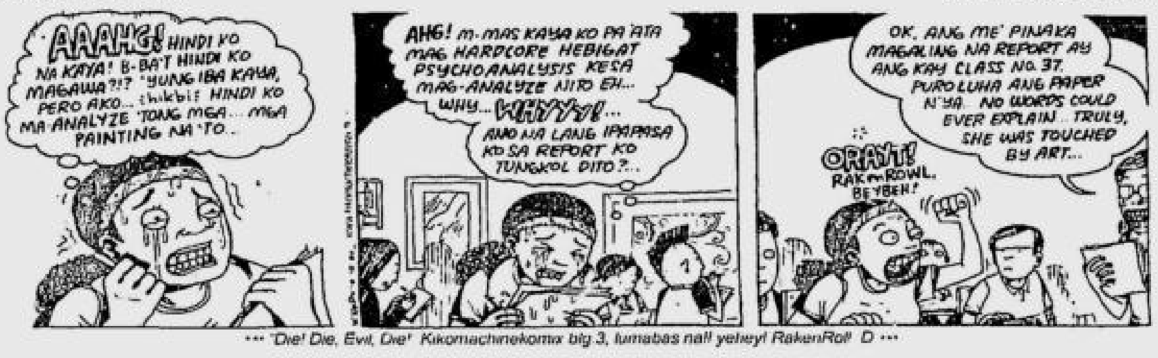
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN JAJA, KAYA IBABABA NG MERALCO ANG SINGIL SA KORYENTE KASI...
BALAK NILANG ITAAS TALAGA?!
OO!!
E, BAKIT NAMAN NILA IBABABA PA?!
PARA HINDI NATIN MARAMDAMAN PAG ITINAAS NILA ANG SINGIL..!!
E, BAKIT NAMAN HINDI NATIN MARARAMDAMAN?!
E, NA-SHOCK TAYO NUNG IBINABA NILA, EH!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

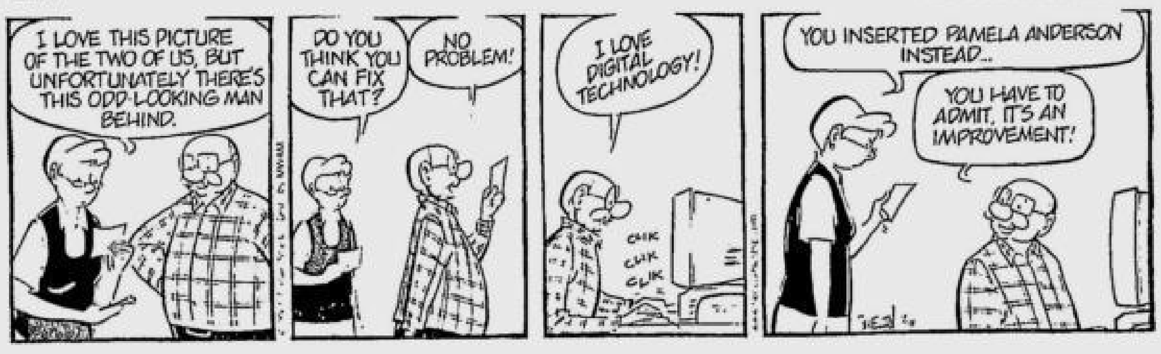


AAAHG! HINDI KO NA KAYA! B-BA'T HINDI KO MAGAWA?!? 'YUNG IBA KAYA, PERO AKO... ihikbi! HINDI KO MA-ANALYZE 'TONG MGA... MGA PAINTING NA 'TO..
AHG! m-MAS KAYA KO PA ATA MAG HARDCORE HEBIGAT PSYCHOANALYSIS KESA MAG-ANALYZE NITO EH... WHY... WHYYY?!...
ANO NA LANG IPAPASA KO SA REPORT KO TUNGKOL DITO?..
OK, ANG ME' PINAKA MAGALING NA REPORT AY ANG KAY CLASS NO. 37. PURO LUHA ANG PAPER N'YA.. NO WORDS COULD EVER EXPLAIN.. TRULY, SHE WAS TOUCHED BY ART...
ORAYT! RAKmROWL BEYBEH!

••• 'Die! Die, Evil, Die!' Kikomachinekomix blg 3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRol! D •••

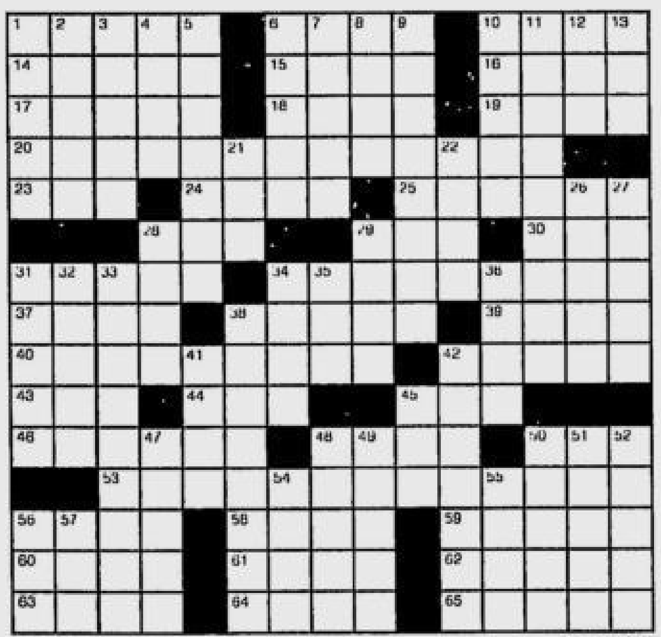
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



I LOVE THIS PICTURE OF THE TWO OF US, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S THIS ODD-LOOKING MAN BEHIND.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX THAT?
NO PROBLEM!
I LOVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY!
CLIK CLIK CLIK
YOU INSERTED PAMELA ANDERSON INSTEAD...
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S AN IMPROVEMENT!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/11/07

ACROSS
1 Dish with dressing
6 One of the Three Bears
10 "Twittering Machine" painter
14 Man from Muscat
15 To some distance
16 Treats a squeak
17 "Bolero" composer
18 Lone
19 Slugger's stat
20 Start of Evan Esar quip
23 Sound of a slow leak
24 Part of SAT
25 Lassos
28 Congeal
29 Eur. country
30 Nest-egg $
31 Phony
34 Part 2 of quip
37 Lot size
38 College bigwigs
39 Literary collections
40 Part 3 of quip
42 Actress Rene
43 Olds' auto
44 ROTC relative
45 Classroom favorite
46 Naval group
48 Discomfort
50 Speller's contest
53 End of quip
56 Verne's captain
58 Monthly payment
59 Meir of Israel
60 Actor Ladd
61 Centerward
62 Sidled
63 Nary a one
64 Smell
65 Burpee products

DOWN
1 Categorizes
2 Indian nursemaids
3 Bathes
4 In a fresh way
5 Makes wider
6 Histories
7 Walking
8 Pick up stealthily
9 Small carpets
10 Chosen, today
11 Drinks
12 QB Manning
13 Twisty letter
21 So far
22 Buss
26 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
27 Authority
28 Plaintiff
29 AD word
31 Iraqi port
32 Earth tone
33 Wedding attendant
34 Fewer
35 Stable staple
36 Like a drumhead
38 Leonardo of "Total Eclipse"
41 Kind of list
42 Plays the wrong card
45 Racetrack stop
47 Make amends
48 Type of bean
49 Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"
50 Tommyrot!
51 All over
52 Holy smokes!
54 Furnish, for a time
55 Protuberance
56 One of the Bobbsey twins
57 Jeff Lynne's band

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	E	E	P	■	S	A	G	E	■	S	L	E	D
T	A	B	L	A	■	A	N	O	N	■	C	U	B	E
O	N	A	I	R	■	N	E	B	S	■	A	R	A	B
L	E	N	O	A	N	D	W	I	N	F	R	E	Y	■
■	■	■	■	D	E	Y	■	■	A	E	S	■	■	■
D	E	C	E	I	T	■	P	O	R	E	■	G	A	P
O	R	A	N	G	■	A	R	N	E	■	E	R	L	E
S	O	S	O	M	O	V	I	E	R	E	V	I	E	W
E	S	T	S	■	V	I	E	S	■	G	E	S	T	E
D	E	S	■	M	E	S	S	■	A	O	R	T	A	E
■	■	■	S	L	R	■	■	A	R	T	■	■	■	■
■	H	A	N	K	S	A	N	D	K	I	D	M	A	N
G	A	L	E	■	E	N	I	D	■	S	I	E	N	A
I	L	E	R	■	E	T	T	E	■	T	E	S	T	S
S	E	E	D	■	S	E	E	R	■	S	T	A	S	H

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10/11/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a marvelous imagination. Personally, you're charming and unusually tolerant of others. You're definitely easygoing. Because of these positive qualities, people like and respect you. You often are involved in group activities, many of which might be humanitarian causes. You like working with others. A major choice will present itself to you in the year ahead. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Elmore Leonard, novelist; Luke Perry, actor; Jane Krakowski, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can't get away from dealing with old matters concerning insurance, debt, taxes and shared property. Actually, this is a good time to tackle these things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Old partners are back in your life again. Perhaps this is an opportunity to smooth things over or reestablish a new connection. If not, you will know exactly how you feel about past connections.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It hasn't been easy at work lately! You're plagued with delays, cancellations, silly errors and misplaced items. Bear with this, because it will continue for a few weeks.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Old flames are back on the scene again. (Oy!) Some of you will be dealing with past issues concerning children as well. Good luck.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Relatives might be camped out on your doorstep. Stock the fridge. Actually, this is a good time to do repairs and fix what needs to be done at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Pay your phone bill. This is the classic time for transportation delays, car repairs and communication breakdowns. Stay on top of your scene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might have an opportunity to get a job you applied for before, or finish up old tasks related to how you earn money. Deal with what is already on your plate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury has gone retrograde in your sign. Lots of stuff from the past will be coming up again, including old partners and ex-friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This a good time to finish up old business connected with the government and large institutions. Old business will go more easily and quickly than new business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Old friends are back on the scene. This could be good, because it's important to have history with others. Learn whatever you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The best way to deal with bosses, parents and VIPs now is to wrap up old business. If there's been something you've been trying to make happen in the past, go for it now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Many of you will want to return to school now or study things you were interested in before. Travel plans are likely to be delayed or canceled. (This will fix itself soon.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

7	8							
4	2				3	7	1	
					6		9	
					9	1	6	
	3	4	2					
	5		4					
	9	8	7				5	3
							7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★
10/11

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

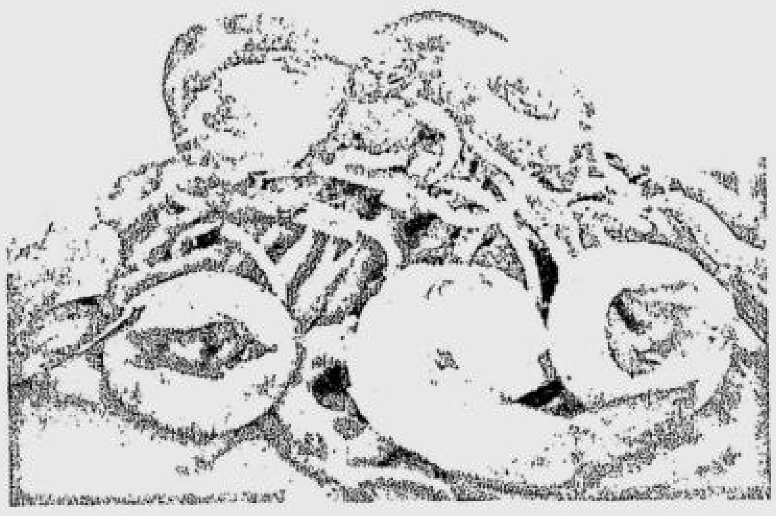
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	8	5	3	7	9	1	4	6
1	4	6	8	2	5	3	7	9
3	9	7	6	4	1	5	2	8
9	2	1	7	8	6	4	5	3
7	5	8	9	3	4	2	6	1
6	3	4	5	1	2	9	8	7
5	6	3	4	9	8	7	1	2
4	1	9	2	6	7	8	3	5
8	7	2	1	5	3	6	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★
10.10

LAING Pizza with a generous spread of cheese



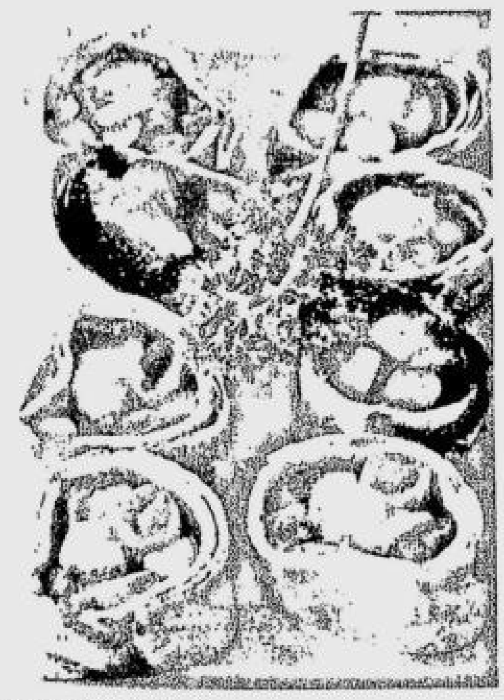
ALIGUE Pasta

COURTESY OF FINIO RESTAURANT

CLASSIC Kare-Kare

Well worth the long wait

From page C1



PRITSON Maki Roll

TILAPIA Strips with soy vinaigrette

COURTESY OF FINIO RESTAURANT

OWNER Jerald Ong Choa and chef Marcelino Magno Jr.

The food venture was eventually managed by Choa's wife because the textile business still took up much of his time.

Tribute to a great cook

It was in November 2004 that Choa fully committed himself to what he had long wanted to do and opened his dream restaurant, Finio. The name was a tribute to his late grandfather Epifanio Ong, who was a great cook.

Choa says Finio, unlike most restaurants that stick to authentic recipes and preparation of local dishes, was designed to reflect "modern Pinoy" sensibilities in taste and style.

The dynamics between the owner and chef Marcelino Magno Jr. have produced creative ways of presenting favorite Pinoy dishes, as well as some very unique food ideas.

Consider the following bestsellers:

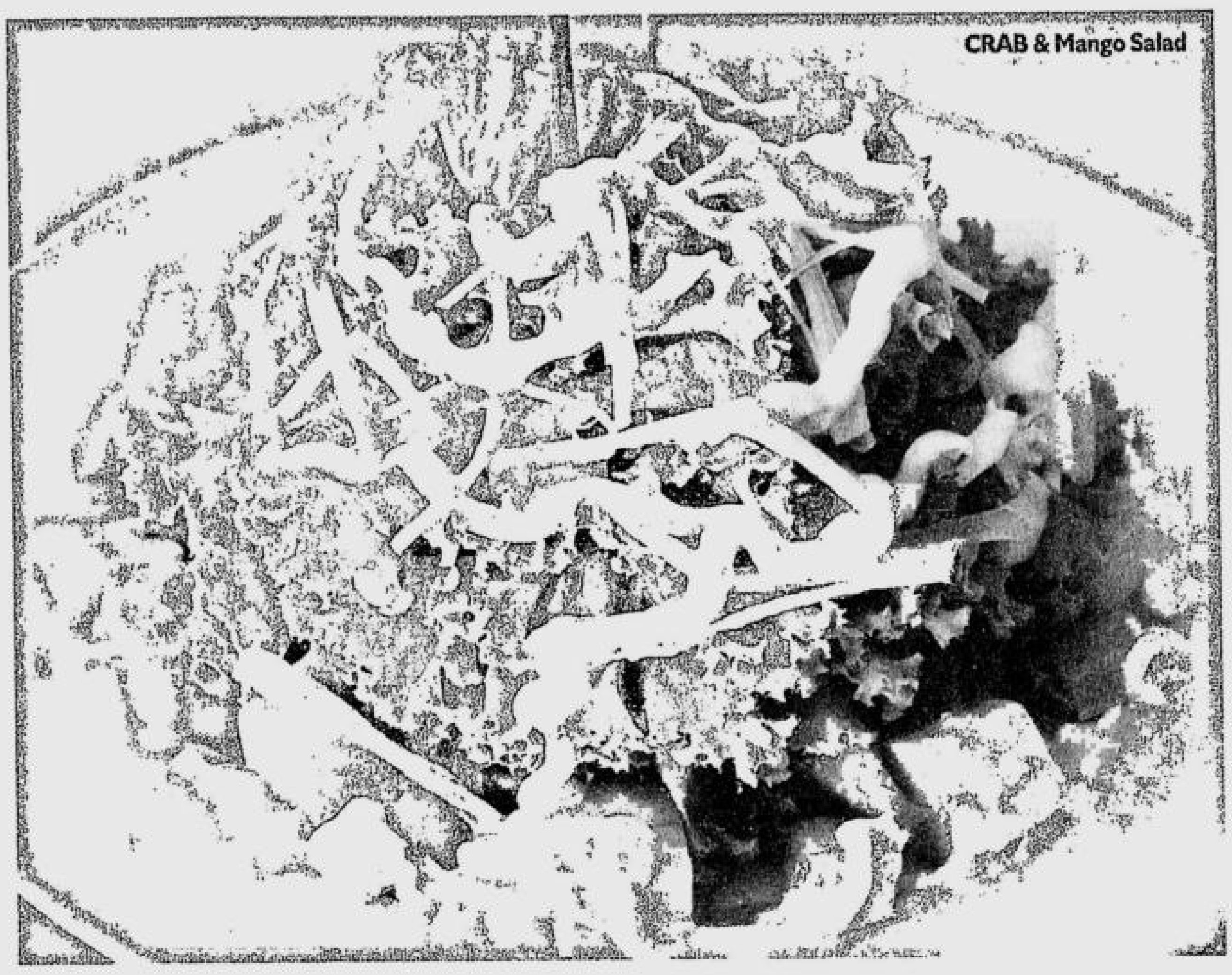
- Pritson Maki Roll, appetizer of flour tortilla stuffed with crispy pork belly (*liempo*) then served with lechon sauce;
- Crab & Mango Salad, a mix of organically grown lettuce, thick chunks of crabstick and ripe mangoes drizzled with homemade sauces spiked with chili oil;
- Boneless Crispy Pata, crisp-fried whole front pork leg sliced into round, even portions and served with soy vinaigrette;
- Tilapia Strips, deep-fried tilapia fingers that also come with soy vinaigrette;
- Classic Kare-Kare of homemade thick peanut sauce, steamed vegetables, ox tail and tripe served with Finio's own *bagoong*.

Guests can feast on pizza, noodles or pasta such as Quesong-Queso pizza of mozzarella, *quesong puti, queso de bola*, parmesan, cheddar; Shrimp and Garlic pizza made with sautéed shrimps and garlic topped with mozzarella; Pancit Finio, a signature dish of *canton, sotanghon*, plus special sweet sauce topped with *lechon kawali*; and Aligue Pasta of shrimps and squid sautéed in rich *aligue* sauce.

Set to debut this month is Laing Pizza, thin-crust dough topped with a generous spread of cheese and moderately spicy *laing*.

Indulge in sweet cravings like Banana Langka Float, Finio Halo-Halo with *ube* ice cream, Leche Flan, and Finio's Mango, Cream & Jelly.

Choa is proud of the lengths the restaurant is willing to go to ensure food is served fresh and its flavors naturally enhanced. No MSG (monosodium glutamate or *vetsin*) is used in any of the dishes. Soups and sauces are strictly homemade.



CRAB & Mango Salad

NILAGANG Baka

COURTESY OF FINIO RESTAURANT

Finio's interiors, which Choa designed, also follow the modern Pinoy theme. The contemporary layout and color scheme are easy on the eye and complement a modest set of artworks directly painted on the wall and inspired by the traditional capiz sliding windows of Spanish-era homes.

With the restaurant, which will soon have a vegan menu, almost on its third year now, it only seems fair to say Choa's long wait toward realizing his childhood dream has been worth it.

Finio Modern Pinoy Restaurant is at the corner of Tomas Morato Avenue and Dr. Lazcano St., Quezon City. Operating hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Tel. 4151278

E-mail the author at fkatigbak@inquirer.com.ph

THE CONSUMER

Thanks, but no thanks

By Linda B. Bolido

PROBABLY AWARE SOME GOVERNMENTS through their embassies are warning people about e-mail informing them they are big lotto winners, another con is being pulled on the gullible.

The message purportedly about the 2007 European Commission Excellence Awards sounds authentic:

"After several unsuccessful attempts to contact you earlier, regarding our award to you, it is our delight to once again notify you of your confirmation as a recipient of the European Commission Excellence Award for 2007 as an outstanding leader and achiever in impacting positive changes in humanity through motivation and entrepreneurial development.

"This is an award specifically put in place to recognize excellence (sic) achievements in managerial innovation and human development through industrial/human growth and good personnel management. This selection of award recipients is through an international survey by the European Commission."

The e-mail goes on to say the award will be presented in London on Dec. 21 and recipients will get their formal invitations in November.

Now here is where it gets interesting. "The award financial prize will be remitted to you as soon as formalities have been concluded and a copy of official award notification has been sent to you.

"Further information regarding this award will be forwarded to you after this office has received the following data confirmation information from you, for our records. This information may be included in our official web site to be launched prior to the awards ceremony on December 14, 2007.

"Award data confirmation information required for our records is as follows:

"Your full names

Registration information of your Company

Contact/postal address of your company (including zip code)

Contact telephone/ cellphone/ fax numbers"

The e-mail is signed by a Holger Larson, head of administration.

Now how did this award-giving group discover my "excellent" managerial and entrepreneurial ability when I have never gotten into any kind of business, not even selling cookies as a girl scout?

It is obvious to me this is a bogus prize. I hope others see it the same way. I am certain if I bring this to its ignominious conclusion, providing them all the personal information they need, I will probably be left without even the proverbial two pennies to rub together.

More on solicitors

A cellular post-paid client is also exasperated by telemarketers.

She does not know who to complain to about a person who sends her text offers numerous times in one day and during the wee hours, too.

"Instead of getting a good night's rest, you'll be bothered by a sudden text message. Of course, you assume it is an emergency given the time..."

The person, who says his name is Edmund (0922-8131493), makes business proposals and offers to sell vitamins and etc.

Although she has already asked the person not to send his messages during unholy hours, her request has been completely ignored.

The complainant is not unreasonable. She does not even mind getting those business offers provided the messages are sent during her waking hours and they do not clog her phone's memory.

Like other people who are bugged by these solicitors, she wonders how these agents get hold of post-paid mobile numbers.

More and more people are beginning to suspect that employees of mobile phone companies are selling directories.

Perhaps the mobile phone companies should start looking into that.

The reader's network says it is helpless to do anything about the problem. Can a government agency help, perhaps the National Telecommunications Commission or the Department of Trade and Industry?

It may be time to lay down some ground rules about mobile phone solicitation.

Warning

Meanwhile, Globe has issued this advisory: "Beware of text messages informing you that you've won a prize. We never ask our winners for cash or prepaid loads to claim a prize. Don't be a victim!"

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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Mall gives entrepreneur room to expand

THE 10-YEAR-OLD ROBINsons Place Bacolod, the first full service mall in Negros Occidental, has provided a venue for local entrepreneurs to start their businesses.

One such home-grown enterprise is The Pastry Shop of Bob's, now run by the second generation of the Sicango family.

The Pastry Shop became a part of Bob's, a popular family restaurant in Bacolod City owned and operated by Dr. and Ms. Homero Sicango, in 1986. Conceptualized by their daughter Cynthia and her husband Bobby Magellan, the bakeshop became a huge hit.

The young couple decided to expand their operations to include stand-alone branches. Magellan, who oversees the day to day operations of the store, said initially they were not completely sold on the idea of opening in a shopping mall because Bacolod was a fairly small city.

The Pastry Shop of Bob's

FRUIT cheesecake

But the leasing group managed to convince the couple to open their first branch in Robinsons Place Bacolod.

Aside from cakes, pastries and sandwiches, The Pastry Shop of Bob's is also known for its freshly-baked breads. Magellan says many European customers were happy to find those items available at the store.

In 2004, the Magellans decided to launch a new project, Café Bob's, at the Mall's third level, catering to coffee lovers who sip their drink while they surf the web. Magellan said the project was timely as the mall's third level was now a Wi-Fi Zone.

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

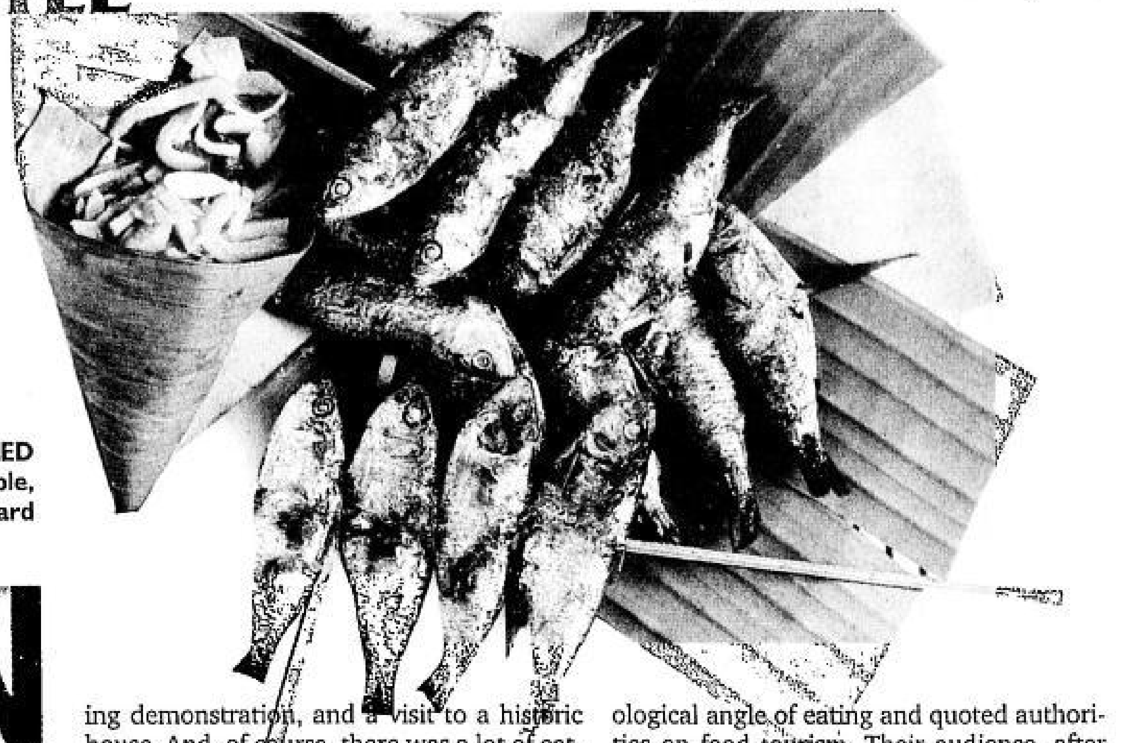
A delicious way to travel

FOOD TOURISM IS THE NEW BUZZword. The thrust is to make Filipino cuisine an attraction for visitors to come to the country.

After all, for every peso spent by tourists, 50 centavos goes to food. That is according to Ryan Nazareno of the Department of Tourism. So why not, indeed, make Filipino cooking a major reason for coming here?

Ryan was one of the speakers at a symposium hosted by the University of Batangas. We went early through Quezon province to sample one of the food tours planned in the area.

It involved cooking lessons, watching native goods being made, a coconut tree-climbing demonstration, and a visit to a historic house. And, of course, there was a lot of eating.


GRILLED *tawilis*: simple, straightforward

The tour was a dry run of the program. Guests were asked to comment on whether it was well-planned, whether the sites were worth going to and if the local food was appealing.

We went through several towns but we were always reminded about the presence of Mt. Banahaw. The mystic mountain provides not only life-sustaining water but also plays a big part in the spiritual life of the people of Quezon.

While history is important when informing about a place, the culture, including a people's belief, has to be part of the story.

I remember that we learned how to make *kiping*, the leaf-shaped decoration made of colored rice paste, in Lucban. The town's specialties *pancit habhab* and reddish Lucban *longganisa* were demonstrated and eaten.

Documenting local cuisine

In the Batangas symposium ("A Fusion of Cuisine and Culture"), Myrna Segismundo talked on documenting the hometown or provincial cuisine. A Batangueño herself, she talked on dishes her parents and older siblings remembered but she no longer knew because she was the youngest in the family.

She feared the younger generation will also not know the dishes she grew up with.

The local cuisine was the topic of conversation at the lunch hosted by the Batangas University attended by its president, Dr. Hernando Perez, and former Gov. Vicente Mayo.

It was amusing to hear them reminisce about local food with down-to-earth names. They mentioned *pastillas kabaong* (the maker was beside a funeral parlor); *kidlat kabute* (mushrooms that appear only when there is a thunderstorm); and *sumang magkayakap*, a literal description of *suman sa lihiya*. Two pieces are tied together as if in an embrace.

The speakers were also treated to the province's best—*sinaing na tulingan*, small tuna pressed with salt then slow-cooked with dried *kamias* until the sauce, called *patis*, is expressed; tamales or steamed rice cake; very tasty *pancit bihon*.

Sociology of food

Professor Anril Tiatco and Dr. Corazon Rodriguez of the Asian Institute of Tourism in the University of the Philippines had a more academic approach. They both gave the sociological angle of eating and quoted authorities on food tourism. Their audience, after all, were students of hotel and restaurant management who needed the information for their reports.

Anril and Cora have been doing deep research on Quezon food culture, particularly that of Sariaya. They told me that *nilupak*, young rice or *pinipig* or banana mashed with a young coconut using a *lusong* or wood pounder, was a courtship performance.

Dez Bautista, anthropologist, told me the same thing, adding the parents of a girl would observe the suitor as he pounded and then they tasted the result. That was supposed to tell them if a man was a good provider.

Our Quezon food tour also included Sariaya where we went to a *malaking bahay* belonging to the Rodriguez family. We were greeted by two ladies who still knew the *pandanggo awit*. I was assured by Anril and Cora that the song and dance are now being taught in the schools, thus preserving this bit of culture.

In my talk, I reiterated what Myrna said, that students there had to observe their own food culture, document it, and those who had the talent, write about it.

The *tawilis*, for instance, is worth writing about. But the students should also go beyond their borders and know about the cooking of other places in the country.

I experimented and showed students a picture of *bringhe*. No one in the audience knew what it was. They do make *bringhe*, rice dish cooked with turmeric and coconut milk, in Laguna. So even if Laguna is a neighboring province, it does not follow that Batangas will know the cooking.

I also pointed out that there were similar dishes with different names. The Batangas *bulalo*, for instance, is called *kansi* in the Ilonggo region and *pakdol* in Leyte.

This is why it is as important for the Department of Tourism to concentrate as well on domestic food tourism. More Filipinos travel around the country for pleasure. It would be great if each province is aware of what it has to offer and to present it by connecting the food to the culture of the place.

Author Raymond Sokolov was right when he wrote in his book "Why We Eat what We Eat" that "Filipinos, isolated from one another by their many local languages and their island geography, are just beginning to learn about [their cuisine] in their multifarious totality."

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GRAB the September-October 2007 issue of BURN Magazine, out in newsstands now!

French food and wine fest

THE SECOND FRANCE FOOD and Wine Festival ends today, Oct. 11, at the Intercontinental Manila Hotel of Makati.

Presented by Sommelier Selection, in partnership with Citigold, the wealth management banking service of Citibank Philippines, the festival gives Filipinos a chance to taste genuine French cuisine.

Wine hunter and Sommelier Selection founder Jerome Philippon says French cuisine is more than just a cooking technique. Diners must experience authentic ingredients from their home regions to really appreciate the cooking.

Sip a glass of aromatic Macon Fuisse while sampling oysters straight from Brittany. Have a meticulously prepared Côte De Veau served with Brouilly Cru from internationally acclaimed wine-maker Jean Claude Lapalu.

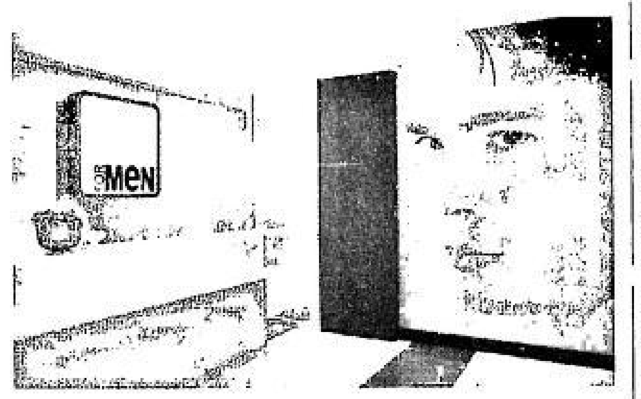
The evening is topped by St. Marcelin cheese, served with a glass of Cuvee Majorum that wine-makers from the famed Loire Valley do not dare create unless conditions are absolutely perfect.

Sommelier Selection's meticulously stocked cellars are widely acknowledged by local wine experts to be the closest thing in the country to a true reflection of the French wine landscape.

Its cellars boast of 30 thirty wine grape varieties and 45 of the most celebrated wine makers from ten out of 15 wine producing regions in France.

Call 8404122 or 0917-520-5050.

KENWOOD'S Patissier Mixer preserves the flavor and aroma of freshly baked pastries. The mixer does not only make baking easy but the cleaning, too, after cooking. Patissier Mixer has a 400-watt powerful motor designed to accommodate all baking needs. It has a variety of colors like pink, red and orange. The mixer comes with four-liter stainless-steel bowls with handles and a splashguard lid with spout for easy and mess-free adding of ingredients during mixing. Kenwood machines are available in Rustan's, Automatic Center, Anson Emporium and Duty Free Phils.



Diamond Peel

Shi-Zen D-Tox

Give Your Looks an Upgrade
Facial Care Centre FOR MEN offers
5 Ways to rid your skin of its flaws

1 Acne scars and Blemishes
Sure, chicks dig the Colin-Farell-scruffy look, but acne scars and blemishes *do not* equal ruggedly handsome. Pricking pimples end up in scars and blemishes - which last longer than the actual zits! Before someone calls you Crater Face, try the **Diamond Peel**. It's a highly advanced procedure that'll painlessly remove old dead surface skin. It gets rid of post-acne scars, blemishes and other dark spots.

2 Pimple breakouts and Back Acne
You've already been through hell in high school (unless you managed to skip the awkward stage). Acne on your face subtracts *pogi* points, while acne on your back ruins your sex appeal. So leave acne to past pubescent memories. **LightCure Acne Therapy** is an easy, effective way to get rid of the acne-fast. It uses a high intensity blue-violet light to kill acne bacteria. Amazingly, it treats zits on any part of the body 3x faster than other procedures.

3 Fine lines and Wrinkles
Lousy pick-up lines and fine facial lines: neither will get you the girl. And don't go denying your age, because the wrinkles are a giveaway. **Advanced Lasertone** is a non-surgical machine treatment that will get rid of those fine lines and wrinkles - without the need for stitches, cuts or injections! Your skin will look years younger. Revealing your age is up to you.

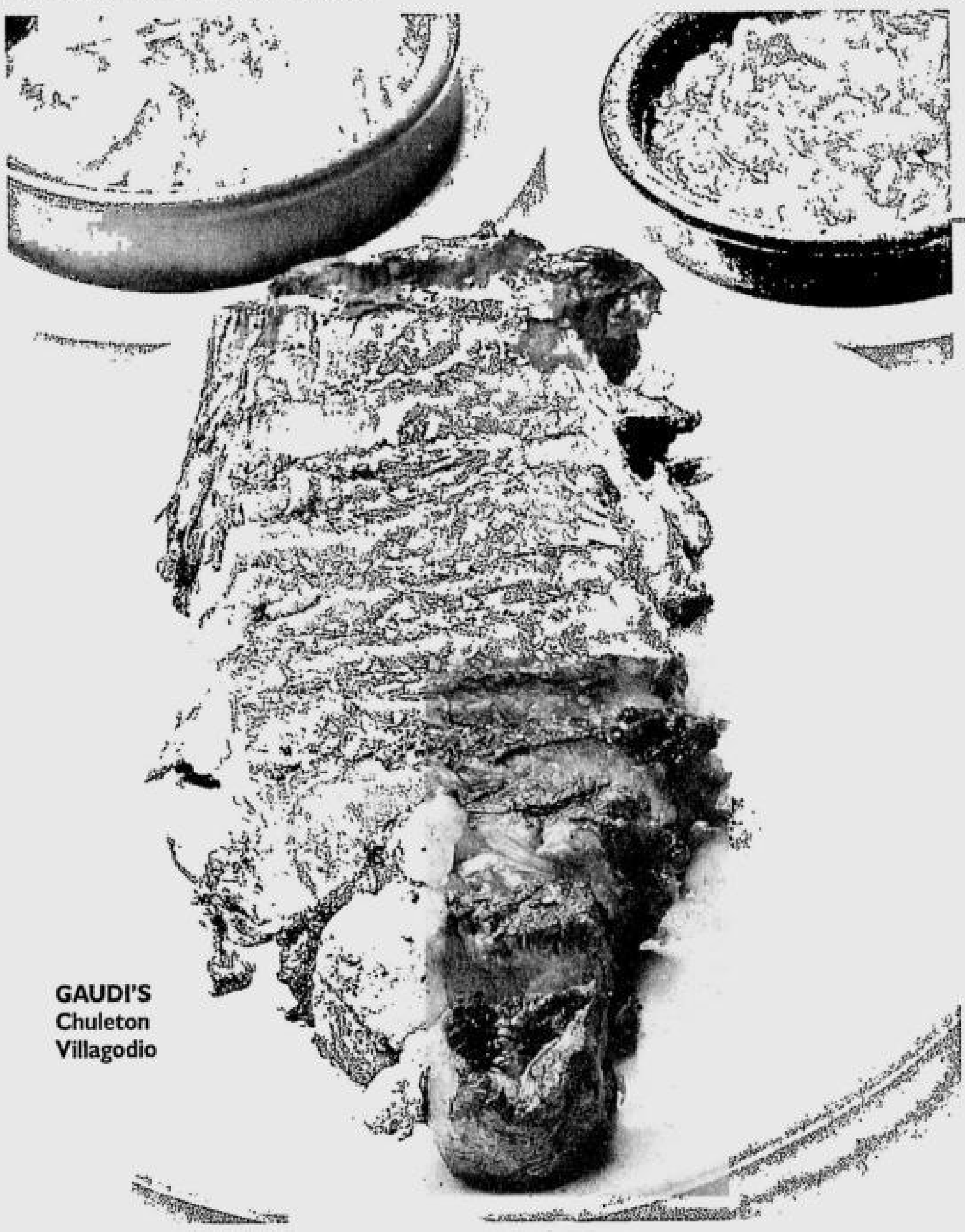
4 Loose, sagging skin
Everything is faster these days. Want to look years younger in less than an hour? **ReFirme** is a skin-tightening treatment with no needles, stitches, scars or sedation involved. After a quick 45-minute session, sags are lifted. Lines are diminished and skin is firmer.

5 Skin Fatigue
Stressed? Who isn't, these days? Relax and get pampered with **Shi-Zen D-Tox.** The combination of Shiatsu massage with a detoxification facial mask will surely send you to a state of nirvana. It improves the texture of your skin and corrects skin fatigue dysfunctions.

All treatments are available at the FOR MEN Centre. Call 813-7959 for a free consultation.

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE



GAUDI'S Chuleton Villagodio

Spain promotes itself in a most enjoyable way—through food and wine

CAPRICE Colombelle

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

An Andalusian evening

IT HAS BEEN A LONG WHILE SINCE I have been to Gaudi's but I have not forgotten my first Chuleton experience.

Mighty thick chunks of steak, sliced, table-grilled, served with potatoes and roasted bell peppers. Xandra says it was in the town of Villagodio, in the northern part of Spain, where this method of grilling beef originated.

After so long, I indulged myself once again at Serendra with Lally San José of La Cámara and Gaudi's chef Xandra Cacho.

Together, we discussed the Noche de Andalusia, part of the Ruta Gastronómica de España, set for today.

Xandra and I are fortunate to collaborate and cook together on the eve of Spain's biggest national holiday, Fiesta del Pilar, and we are celebrating not just with food and wine but even with great Spanish music from Yerbaguena.

The Ruta, organized by La Cámara; the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce; and the Commercial Office, according to San José "aims to promote Spain and one of the most enjoyable ways to do this is through food and wine."

The whole idea is to pair a Spanish chef with a Filipino counterpart: Mikel Arriet of Club Punta Fuego with J Gamboa of Cirkulo, Xandra Cacho of Gaudí and myself, Juan Carlos de Terry of Terry Selection and Ariel Manuel of Lolo Dad's.

Needless to say, the first stop of the Ruta was an astounding success. Mikel and J whipped up dishes for Noche del País Vasco, whetting appetites and palates, leaving people in great anticipation of the Ruta's next stop, Gaudi's.

Lally says: "We want to increase awareness of Spain, which has 17 autonomous regions, each one with its own particular characteristics, culture, traditions and gastronomy."

Apart from today, another date you might want to mark in your calendar is Nov. 15 as our very own genius Ariel Manuel teams up with Juan Carlos de Terry for "Noche de la España Mediterránea."

What a befitting way to celebrate life, through food and wine, as proceeds of the event go to the LTB culinary scholars.

For reservations, call La Cámara, 8867643/7596776; Gaudi, 8124984.

Affordable wines

Any wine suggestions? Please make sure it is affordable.

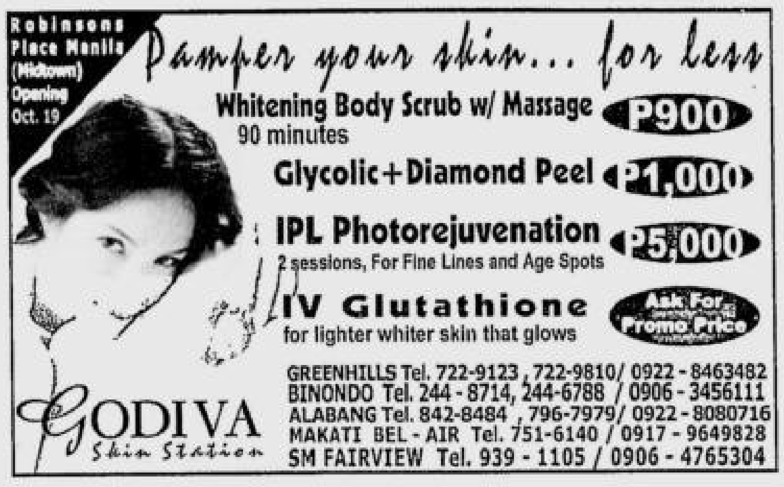
NICO

I had the privilege of meeting Jerome Philippon, a wine hunter, who is on a crusade to educate people on French wines and to dispel the myth that French wines are too expensive.

For me, he opened a bottle of Caprice Colombelle and what a glorious drink it was. Nice, crisp and clean, the kind I would like to have on a regular basis. An easy drink with exciting bursts of complex fruity aromas and hints of guava!

I asked for his tasting notes and it read: "Colombelle, made of the colombard grape variety that originates from southwest France, is a typical example of the little-known French grape that provides great value for money. Colombelle is a very fragrant fruit. Aroma of exotic fruit, sweet to the nose with peach, guava and passion fruit. Very refreshing on the mouth with a long reminiscing acidity. The sweet-and-sour effect creates a very good balance that one would like to find in wines of that price. Colombelle P390 per bottle. Colombelle Caprice P575 per bottle." Call 8404211.

AN ANDALUSIAN/ D3



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DINING OUT

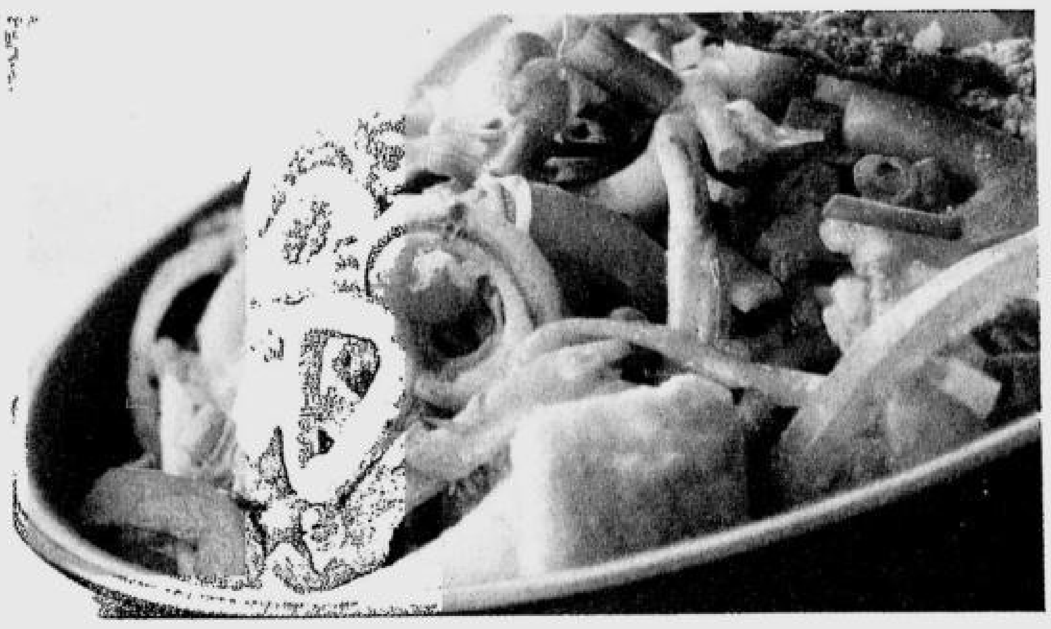
Mediterranean feast

DADS OFFERS A MEDITERRANEAN gastronomic feast with Sol y Luna, featuring an extensive selection of dishes from the southern European region. The spread includes Asparagus wrapped with Prosciutto di Parma; Chicken Gyro wrap; roasted pork loin marinated in rosemary; grilled pork belly spiked with basil, garlic and olive oil; roasted chicken with lemon pepper and marbled potato; stuffed chicken fillet topped with spinach cream sauce; Fish and Asparagus Bundles; Garides Saganaki; Tiramisu and Cake Mediterranean. The buffet is available in all branches: SM Megamall, Glorietta III, Alabang Town Center, Edsa, Padre Faura and West Avenue. Call 4102870, 8928898 or 5281724.

JAYMI'S GRILL is now at 802 Pasay Rd. Makati, near Don Bosco Church. To top-selling items Sisig, Crispy Pata, Kilawing Tangigue, Inihaw na Liempo, Mango Freeze have been added Pinalutong na Hito, Catfish Mango Salad and Banana Q ala mode. The restaurant can also be a venue for baptisms, birthdays, weddings, corporate functions and other parties. Call 8152741 or 8157990.

TIA MARIA'S offers different Kiddie Party Packages. Each package, priced at P250-P299 per person, comes with balloons, streamer, invitations, loot bags, and *piñata*. Kiddie 1 serves *quesadillas* with barbecue and nacho chips; Kiddie 2, enchilada with barbecue, rice and nacho chips; Kiddie 3, spaghetti, fried chicken and fries; Kiddie 4, cheeseburger, chicken, two taquitos and fries; and Kiddie 5, burrito, two taquitos and nacho chips. Call it's branches at Ermita at 5257389; Remedios, 5220429; SM City Baguio, 074- 6197681; SM Megamall, 6352326; and Tia Maria's Cantina, Katipunan Avenue, 4262350.

HEAVEN 'N EGGS offers Ham Eggs Benedict (above), Seafood Basket, Buffalo Shrimps, Grilled Chicken Caribbean Fiesta, Country Fried Steak Special, Grandma's Burger Steak, Tuna Steak Platter, The Great Steak Benedict, among others. Call Heaven 'N Eggs branches at CKB Building on Tomas Morato, QC at 3762674; G/F, Glorietta 4, 8182792; Fuente Circle, Eastwood City, 9121172; Market! Market!, 8893791; and TriNoma Mall, QC, 9013608.



FILLING MEAL IN A BOWL
Prepare your own Mongolian Beef Bowl by choosing from an array of fresh vegetables, meat and poultry, and a variety of sauces. Then have a cook at the Mongolian Quickstop on the third level of Eastwood Cyber & Fashion Mall prepare it for you Mongolian-style for a healthy, filling meal. Call 6879294 or 0917-8EWCITY.

HULA-HULA Seafood and Barbecue House offers Mess of Steaks, a combination of US beef cuts. Also available are Island Belly Chops and US Angus Beef. Call its branches at Shangri-La Street Scape, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City at 9103218; and Westgate, Filinvest City at 7712291 or 7712289.

COOKING CLASSES

Sun-dried tomatoes, Pinoy buffet

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Oct. 12: Sun-dried Tomatoes (all new)—Sun-dried Tomato Spread with Points; Mozzarella Salad with Sun-dried Tomato Dressing; Chicken 2 Ways—Delectable Mushroom Chicken with Sun-dried Tomatoes; Chicken with Creamy Sun-dried Tomato Butter Sauce; Prawn Paella with Sun-dried Tomato Aioli; Pasta of Prawns and Scallops in Garlic Olive Oil and Coriander Crunch; Fillet of Sole with Sun-dried Tomato Butter

Oct. 13: Pinoy Buffet Ihaw-Ihaw Restaurant Style (all new)—pulutan: Lengua Sisig and Traditional Sisig; soup: Sinigang na Tiyan ng Bangus sa Miso; grilled dishes: Delicious Inihaw na Pusit, Tuna Panga, Belly and Buntot, Liempo and Chicken, Crispy Tadyang with Garlic, Very Crispy Pata Done Right, Seafood Rice, Bicol Express, Guinumis with White Chocolate

Oct. 15: Rockin' Rolls (all new)—12 Kinds of Spring Rolls: Egg Rolls, Shanghai, Seafood Shanghai, Duck, Curry, Lechon, Vegetable, Shrimp; Spring Rolls Were Never this Good; Homemade dipping sauces

Oct. 17: Delicious Fried Sandwiches (all new)—Make Dough from Scratch and Fry: Tuna, Asado, Tuna, Chicken à la King, Fried Cheese, Cheeseburger, Corned Beef. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

Classic Italian pastas

Maya Kitchen is conducting the "Classic Pasta Class," 2-6 p.m., Oct. 20. Five classic pastas will be covered—Lasagna, Carbonara, Chicken Cannelloni, Ravioli with three kinds of stuffing, and Aglio Olio.

In "Brownies and Pies," 2-6 p.m., Oct. 13, participants will learn how to make sweets.

To prepare for Christmas, enroll in "Holiday Baking with Maya Mixes," 2-6 p.m., Oct. 20.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production" will be offered 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 23-26.

The "Catering Seminar," 3-6 p.m., Oct. 24-26, will cover how to start a catering business, facilities, personnel, menu.

Visit Maya Kitchen Tuesday-Saturday at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Rd.), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108; e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Baked goodies

Dorothy's Cooking School will hold a cupcake class on Oct. 17.

Baked goodies for selling or gift-giving will be demonstrated on Oct. 21.

New menus featuring porkchops a l'orange, baked carrot cheesecake and chicken alexander with roasted garlic mashed potato will be showcased on Oct. 24.

Pork paté, onion marmalade, hearty lamb and bean stew will be covered on Oct. 27.

Cake-decorating enthusiasts can learn royal icing decor in Christmas designs and gingerbread cookies on Oct. 29-30.

The school, located in New Manila, QC, is owned by cookbook author Dorothy J. Ferreria. Call 7217735 or 4167968.

'Adobo' contest goes national

THE NEGROS CULTURAL FOUNDATION, Inc. (NCF) presents the First National Adobo Challenge Nov. 9-11, at the Balay Negrense Museum (Don Victor Gaston Ancestral House) in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

Theme of the first national competition is "Adobo: A Culinary Tradition."

The competition was held locally for the past nine years as part of the city's 5 de Noviembre commemoration.

For the national competition, students and amateur cooks can submit their original entries. Professional chefs will display their kitchen skills in updated versions of the traditional dish with their individual styles. Winning recipes will then be compiled in a cookbook.

Other activities include fundraiser opening cocktail and dinner, street party, food and crafts fair, organic market, lounge party, food trips, heritage tours, exhibits and a play.

Lyn Gamboa, NCF president, is chair of the *adobo* festival.

In her foreword to the "Adobo Festival Cookbook," Cristina Montelibano said *adobo* was a recipe "we take so much for granted, but which has become synonymous with being Filipino. The *adobo* has become such a national dish that even foreigners say they know for a fact that there is a Filipino living in their apartment building from the aroma of simmering vinegar and soy sauce wafting through the corridors."

The popular dish has traveled around the globe that its unique scent and taste have become familiar even to non-Filipinos.

Registration for the competition is ongoing.

Call NCF 7501481, 034-7085080 or 034-4319451; fax 034-4334764. Call Negros Museum at 8109823; fax 7294082; visit www.organic.com.ph; or e-mail adobochallenge@gmail.com

It's Christmas in October in Marikina

THE MARIKINA CULINARY ARTS GUILD (MCAG), a group of professional caterers, suppliers and event planners, are presenting the grand food expo "Christmas in October," 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Oct. 19, at the activity center of the Marikina Riverbanks Mall.

The event marks the guild's 7th anniversary.

Booths will feature Christmas decorations and traditional holiday delicacies like *bibingka, puto bumbong, castañas, pan de sal* with *queso de bola, lechon, halayang ube* and others will be available the whole day.

Cooking demonstrations sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Nestlé, Sysu Inc., and Unilever will be presented. A "Dress up your Christmas Ham" and "Gourmet Sandwich" competition sponsored by San Miguel Foods Inc. will be open to hotel-and-restaurant management students and food enthusiasts.

A table-setting competition with Christmas motif will also be held.

Also featured are *rondalla* music and traditional folk dances said MCAG director Irma D.G. San Miguel.

MCAG president Edith L. Hernandez said more than 1000 participants and guests were expected.

The entrance fee of P20 will entitle the ticket holder to four food samplings. Call 6451041 or 6462071.

PIZZA IN A CONE
Francis B. Onate (left) and Dondi B. Onate, owners of Amazing Cone, "the pizza in a cone," show samples of the new product at its recent launching at their store at 11 Hemady St., New Manila, QC. The store also produces and sells Amazing Ice and Amazing Swirl.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GOODAH Boracay outlet

Hot soup for rainy days ahead

GOTO FROM GoodAh!!!, a pioneer in 24-hour service, remains a big favorite among Filipinos especially this rainy season.

Aside from the hot, steamy *goto*, GoodAh!!! also serves other dishes.

But these cold, rainy days, *goto* is the top-seller once again. GoodAh!!! *goto* consists of whole-grain rice and tender tripe topped with crunchy garlic and chopped spring onions.

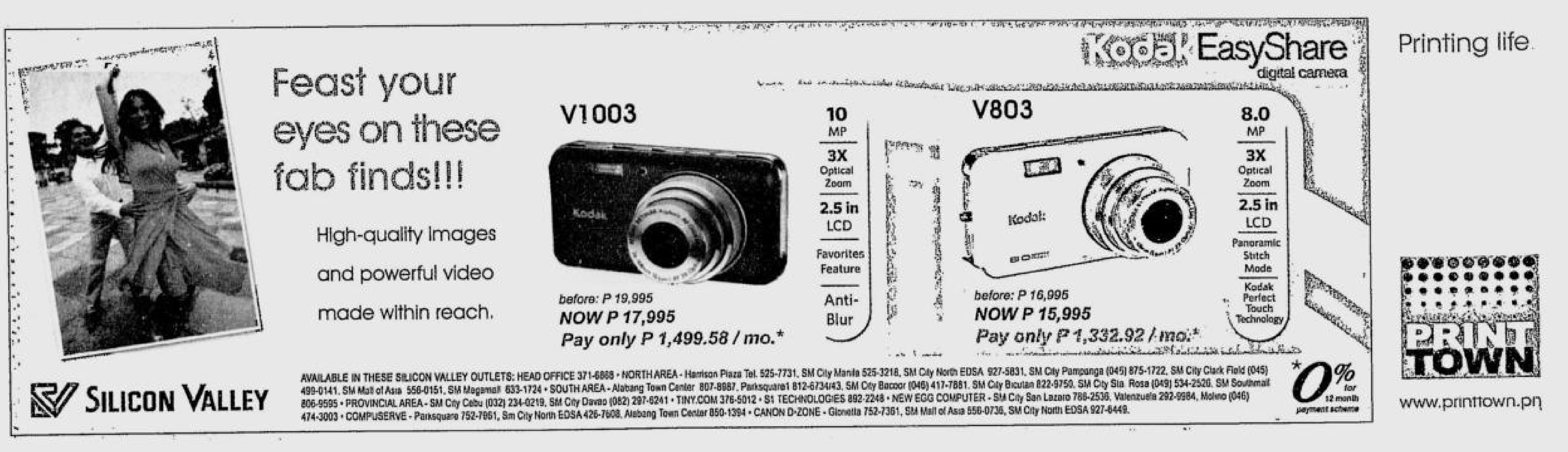
Other home cooked-style dishes at GoodAh!!! are *dinuguan*, the famous "log" fried rice meals, *arroz caldo, bangus, tokwa't baboy, lumpiang* Shanghai, among others.

With its *altanghap* rice-and-egg meal combinations, side dishes, dessert plus a whole new set of dishes, GoodAh!!! really serves "Pagkaing Good for Every All!"

Now under a new management, Del Sol Foods, Inc. headed by president and general manager Jose Antonio Soler, GoodAh!!! sports a new, open look.

GoodAh!!! also does catering. It recently opened outlets in Boracay, the first in its provincial expansion program. The new branches are at Station 1 and the Main Road, Station 1. Call 036-2884343 or 036-5063172.

For catering, visit Del Sol Foods, Inc. at 369 Dr. Sixto Antonio Ave., Maybunga, Pasig. Call 9011972 or visit www.goodah.com.ph.



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An Andalusian evening

From page D1

Now, how's that for a description? I say yes, yes, that is all correct. The way Jerome described it is exactly how the wine is!

I always wondered why my tasting notes are so mundane compared to others. Well, for starters, I am relatively new to wine appreciation. Though I have been drinking it for years, I gulp it way faster than it takes to appreciate it. Luckily, all that is changing!

At one point Sherwin Lao, our very own wine master, told me, "Don't despair. The reason is there are many aromas and flavors that are not endemic to us. Being Asian, fruits or aromas such as black berries, peach, apricots, nectarines, for example, are not fruits, flavors or aromas we grew up with, therefore [the taste] is acquired. In time and with patience, your tasting notes will be like that of a pro."

Thanks, Sherwin! I needed that.

In case you are free tonight, you might want to catch the last day of the Sommeliers 2nd French Food and Wine Festival at the InterContinental Hotel.

All food and wine are imported from France. It is an attempt to demonstrate the notion of "terroir."

Philippon says "terroir is the combination of the natural environment, land, climate; the traditional interaction of man with his environment to produce something, the specific influence of direct land environment on the taste of food."

Tonight, 14 authentic French boutique wines of limited vintage that could not be had even in commercial wine stores in Paris will be showcased. Call 8404211

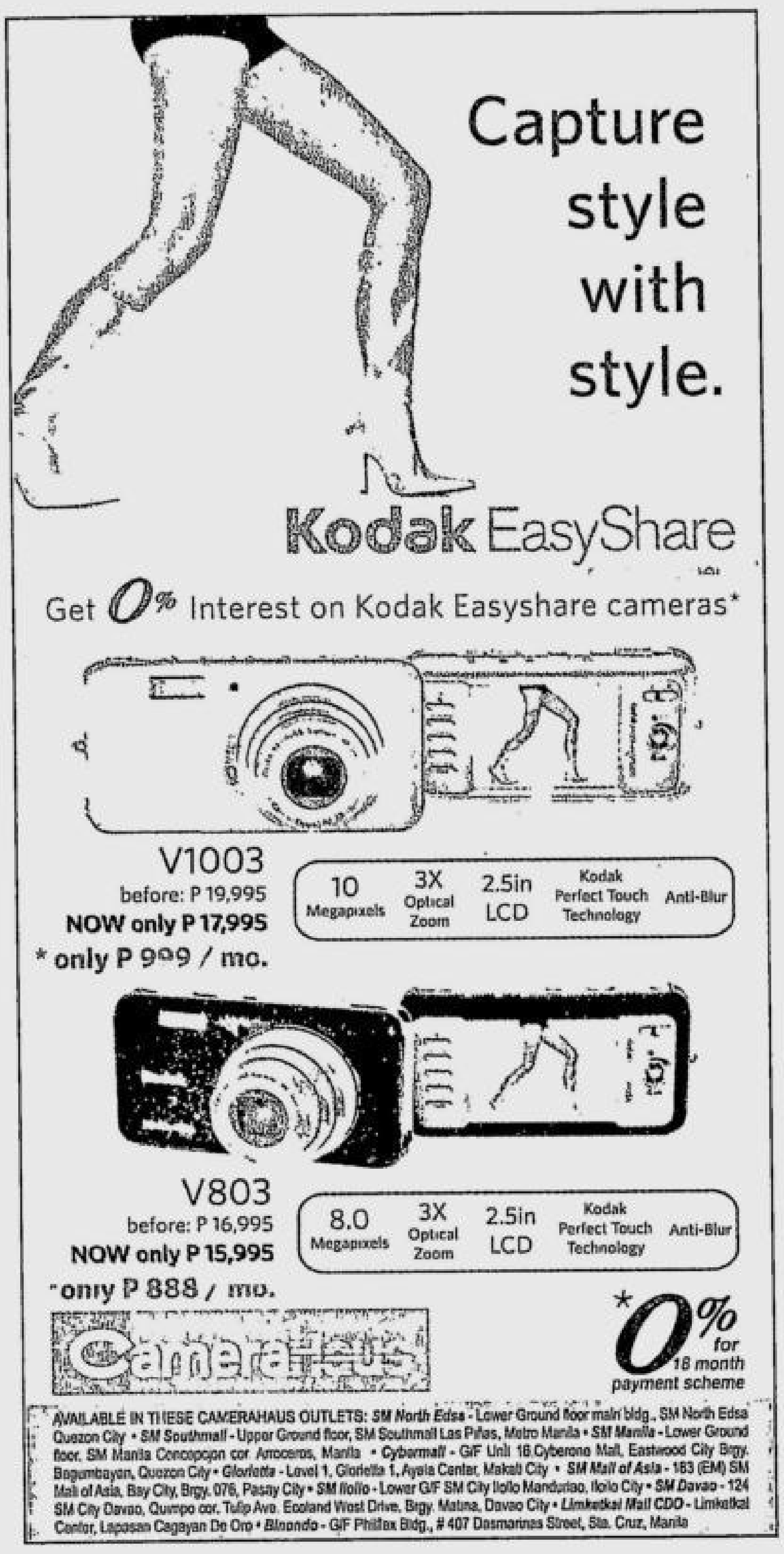
'Tortured' by sticky 'torta'

My *tortang talong* always sticks to my pan. I can't seem to get it right. Can you please help me with this frustrating situation?

MRS. ACOSTA

I think I have solved your problem. Please line your pan with a banana leaf, cut to the size of your pan, and cook your *torta* on it. It works wonders!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph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OCTOBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

COOKING CLASSES

October 16, Tuesday - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1. Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,500.00 including ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

October 18, Thursday - NOCHE BUENA FEAST. Chef Gino will teach you tasty and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena and other special occasions. Recipes include Lengua con Cetas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,800.00 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

October 22, Monday - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 2. Once again Chef Gino will teach another set of bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas giveaways. Recipes include Violet Crumble, Boursin, Butter Caramel Sauce, Homemade Whole Grain Mustard, Nougat, Dried Tomatoes in Oil and Cheese Log for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 pm.

October 25, Thursday - "DELICIOSO" SPANISH MEALS. New delicious Spanish meals from Chef Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palate will be learned in this class. The recipes are Lentejas con Chorizo (Lentils with Chorizo), Rabo de Torro con Vino (Oxtail with Wine), Bacalao Estilo Nuevo (New Style Bacalao), Chicken Samfaina (Chicken with Herbs), Catalan Cannalones (Catalan Style Cannaloni) and Patata Gratin (Au Gratin Spanish Style) for P1,900.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 26, Friday - GOURMET GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Our Café Ysabel Chef and CACS Davao Instructor, Chef Toto Erfe will teach us gift ideas and business opportunities for the coming holidays. The recipes are Raspberry Vinaigrette, Homemade Caesar Salad Dressing, Tomato Salsa Dip, Smoked Fish Cheese Dip, Clam and Anchovy Pasta Sauce, Favorite Barbecue Marinade and Cherry Chocolate Truffles. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 27, Sunday - SIX UNDER. Surprise visitors! Not prepared! Learn to make miracles out of six ingredients normally found at home. Quick and sumptuous, no hassles, no measurements and cook like a pro. Demonstrated by Chef Toto Erfe of Café Ysabel, recipes are Anchovies and Tomato Pasta, Warm Bacon Dressing and Feta Cheese Green Salad, Sausage and Bean Soup, Potatoes and Seared Beef Toss, Garlic Stuffed Chicken with Roasted Vegetables and Spiced Glazed Pork Loin for P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 28, Sunday - SIX UNDER, PART 2 (ASIAN STYLE). Here's another Six Under recipes from Chef Toto Erfe but this time, it will be Asian style. The recipes are Longanisa and Red Egg Spring Rolls, Chinese Style Fried Rice, Steamed Fish, Beef Curry, Chili Garlic Glazed Chicken Wings and Whole Wheat Noodle Stir-fry in XO Sauce for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

BAKING CLASSES

October 14, Sunday - CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS. This class is a must for anyone with a passion to create a dazzling chocolate desserts. Chef Adoree Chong-Uy will demonstrate a variety of specialties like Double Chocolate Rum Cake, Fudgy Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Blitz Torte, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Dome and Graham Chocolate Roulade for P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

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The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations.

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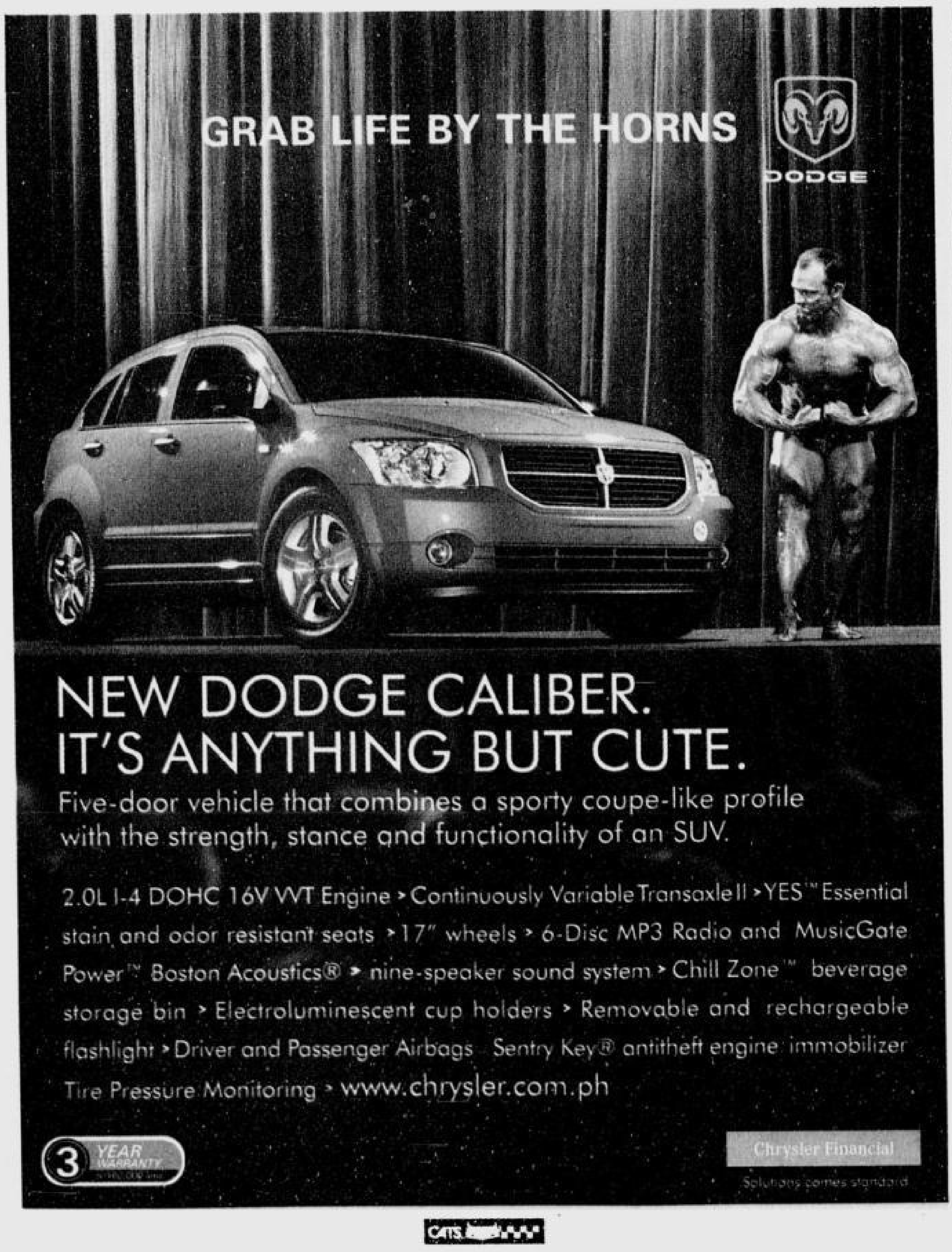
Classes will start on November 06. Schedule for TTHS 10:00 - 4:00 and 5:00 - 11:00 pm. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn Espino, Paul Tee or Cindy Zamora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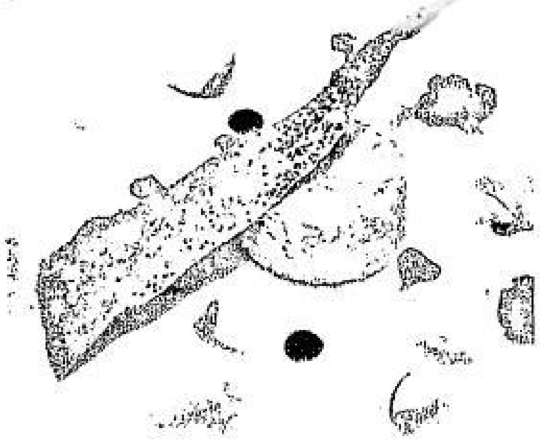
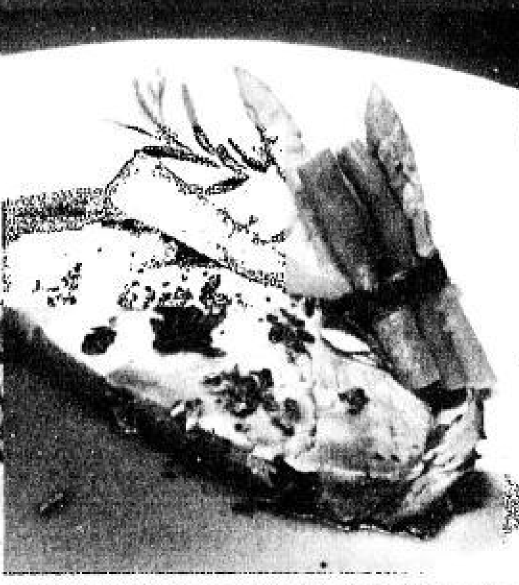
Healthy cooking becomes haute cuisine



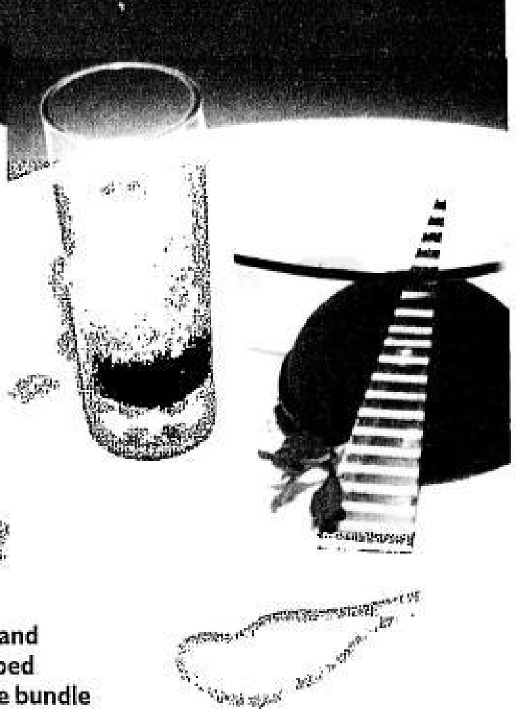
ENERGIZING tian of crabmeat and Granny Smith apple on a layer of cleansing cucumber essence with vanilla oil and sprinkled with flower petals

FLAVORFUL poached fillet of *lapu-lapu* in wild rice dashed with invigorating lemon grass "nage" and with zesty papaya crisp

LETTUCE spring roll with tamarind shrimps and sugar-free avocado and green apple catalane



ROASTED Dutch veal loin drizzled with herbs and soothing lavender jus with hearty saffron whipped potatoes and fresh Tagaytay highland vegetable bundle



LUSCIOUS chocolate and macha tea crème brulée dome, native mandarin coulis and revitalizing basil and pineapple pearl jelly

SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA introduces Cuisine Vitale, a selection of healthy dishes that are delicious and nourishing, their flavors enhanced by the use of natural and organic ingredients.

The dishes, launched during the recent Spa Asia Wellness Summit 2007 in the same hotel as part of the country's observance of health and wellness month, is now available at Sofitel's Spiral restaurant.

All dishes carrying the Cuisine Vitale label passed through a rigorous nutrient analysis by a certified dietician. The label provides information on how much calories a dish contains, as well as the amount of saturated fats and cholesterol.

Cuisine Vitale will be a permanent fixture at all the different stations of Spiral as well as room service. Eventually, the hotel will make the cuisine available in its other food outlets.

The recent summit brought together over 300 delegates and participants from the Asia Pacific spa industry, a US$200-billion business.

For the three-day event, Sofitel's culinary team researched what would constitute a gourmet cuisine for the health conscious, putting together a whole range of different dishes from the Zen break to the daily lunch.

The dishes that now constitute Cuisine Vitale were low-calorie (less than 40 calories per serving), cholesterol-free (less than 2 mg of cholesterol per serving and 2 grams or less of saturated fat per serving), low-cholesterol (20 mg or less of cholesterol per serving and 2 grams or less of saturated fat per serving).

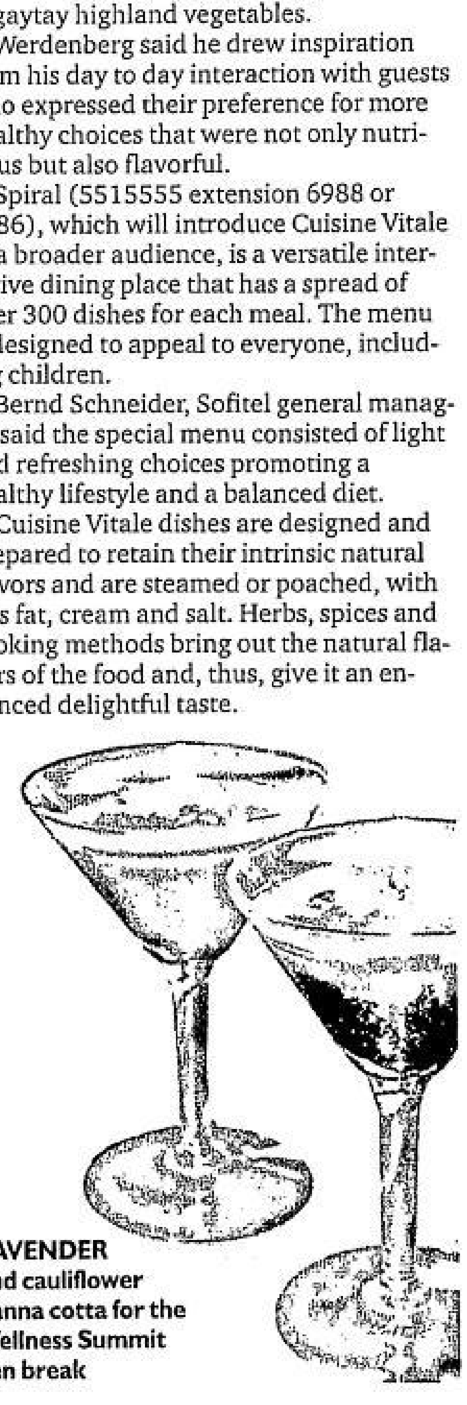
For the Spa Asia Crystal Awards dinner, executive chef Christian Werdenberg created a menu inspired by elements of spa treatments. For Zen breaks, the menu was inspired by the Zen and Chakra philosophies that promoted natural healing and incorporated ingredients used for treatments like green tea, poppy seeds, lemon grass and local Philippine fruits and vegetables such as papaya, pineapple and Tagaytay highland vegetables.

Werdenberg said he drew inspiration from his day to day interaction with guests who expressed their preference for more healthy choices that were not only nutritious but also flavorful.

Spiral (5515555 extension 6988 or 1086), which will introduce Cuisine Vitale to a broader audience, is a versatile interactive dining place that has a spread of over 300 dishes for each meal. The menu is designed to appeal to everyone, including children.

Bernd Schneider, Sofitel general manager, said the special menu consisted of light and refreshing choices promoting a healthy lifestyle and a balanced diet.

Cuisine Vitale dishes are designed and prepared to retain their intrinsic natural flavors and are steamed or poached, with less fat, cream and salt. Herbs, spices and cooking methods bring out the natural flavors of the food and, thus, give it an enhanced delightful taste.



LAVENDER and cauliflower panna cotta for the Wellness Summit zen break

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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REVIEW

The message is pure

LEONARDO DiCaprio on the set of his documentary on the state of the global environment

But '11th Hour' packs in a daunting amount of information

NEW YORK—THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT Leonardo DiCaprio's intentions are honorable in trying to inform us about the state of crisis our planet is in with "The 11th Hour," or that his knowledge of the subject matter is secure.

DiCaprio, who narrated, co-produced and co-wrote the documentary, created a foundation to make people aware of environmental issues back in 1998, at the height of his "Titanic" superstardom when he could have been dating supermodels. (Oh wait, he's done that, too.)

You just wish he'd have chosen someone to direct who had a little more visual panache. Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners, sisters who wrote and directed the film, clearly worked extensively to amass a large number of expert perspectives on every facet of the topic, from global warming to dependence on fossil fuels to energy-efficient architecture.

Onslaught

But the result feels like an onslaught of information—a never-ending parade of talking heads (54, to be exact) including Stephen Hawking, Mikhail Gorbachev and former CIA director James Woolsey. There's also Kenny Ausubel, founder of Bioneers; conservation biologist Stuart Pimm; and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, just to name a few

THE MESSAGE/ E2

More options for Nora Aunor

NORA AUNOR'S FRIENDS AND FANS ARE happy that the drug case against her in the States has been dropped, after 18 months of rehab. Now, the beleaguered superstar has more options than just performing for Fil-Am communities in the US, and she could even stage a major comeback here.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Even better, if her rehab in the States has really helped Nora exorcise her long-festering demons, she can resume her career here with greater clarity and resolve.

To celebrate this happy occasion, one of our movie channels should whip up a mini-festival of Nora's most acclaimed starrers, to remind everyone of her unique contributions as a film artist.

The festival should showcase Aunor gems like "Bona," "Himala," "Fe, Esperanza, Caridad," "Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo," "Atsay," "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo," "T-Bird at Ako," ""Merika" and "Bulaklak ng City Jail."

But the best thing the Filipino movie industry could do for Nora would be to cast her in a challenging comeback film role.

We believe the exceptional talent is still there, and indeed has even matured further, due in part to the daunting problems that she's had to contend with in the States.

To make sure that Nora's comeback film is an artistic *and* popular success, she should consciously avoid playing the "kawawa" roles she specialized in years ago, because she's done them to death.

Neither should she go way out and tackle roles that she isn't prepared to adequately

MORE/ E4

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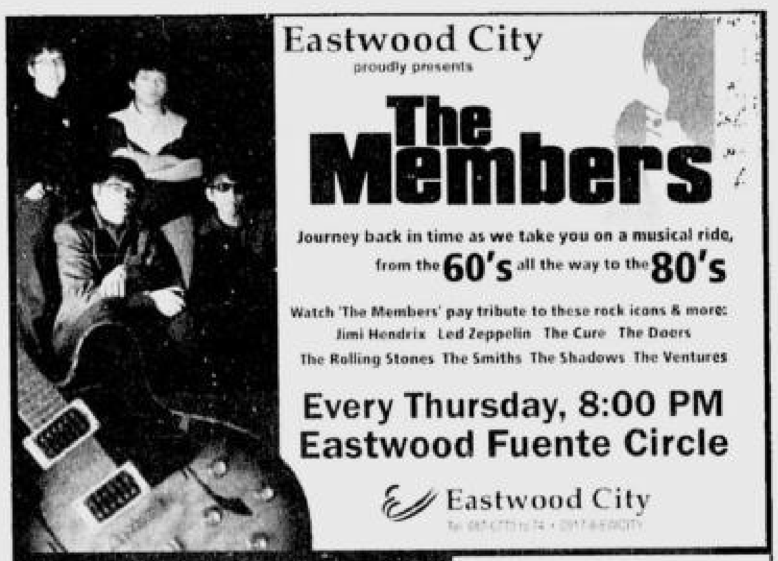
KUNGFU FIGHTER PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50
STARDUST G 12:15,2:50,5:25,8:00	WEDDING DAZE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	STARDUST G 2:15,4:50,7:25,10:00

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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1	RESIDENT EVIL 3 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2	STARDUST 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10 G
3	KUNG FU FIGHTER 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40 PG-13
4	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 3:50, 6:15, 8:40,11:00 G

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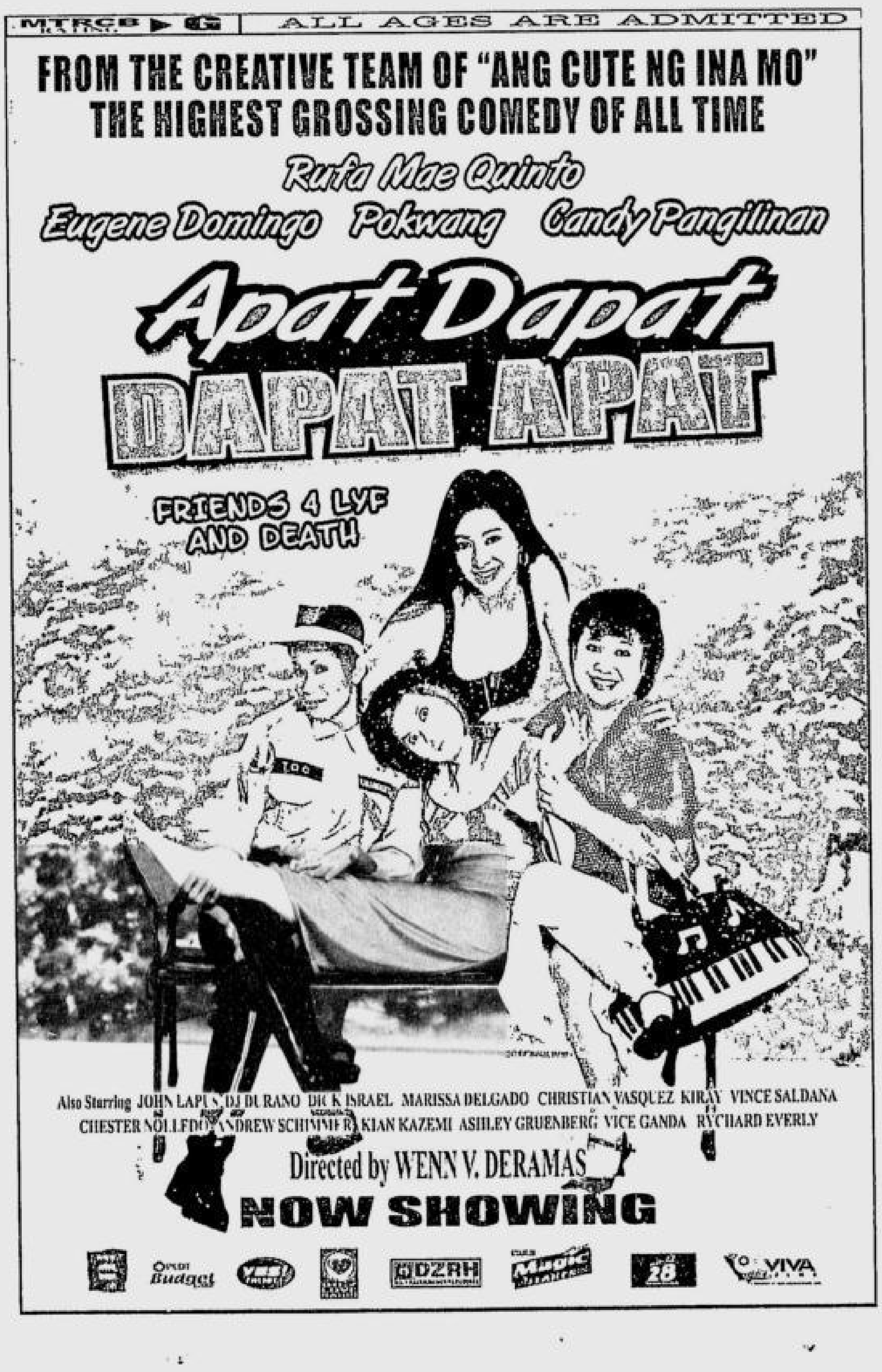

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1 NO RESERVATION • THX
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 RETRIBUTION
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 indieSine: STILL LIFE
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
NO RESERVATIONS
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA

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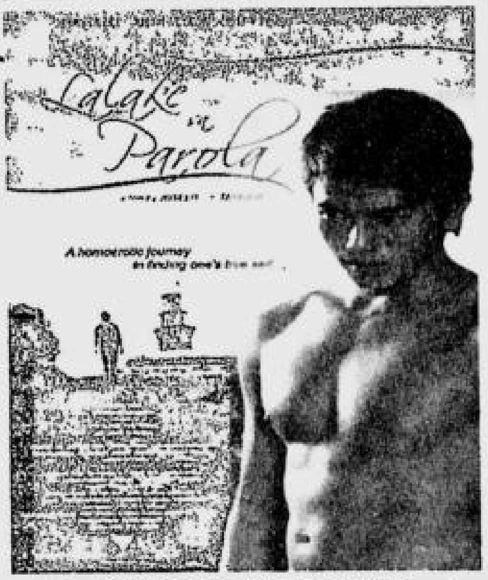
Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

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Ticket Price: P100 / P110 · 682-8183 · 682-8199

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 RETRIBUTION
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY / EVENING
8 DECEMBER BOYS

NOVALICHES

[illegible] P100 · 935-3221 / 935-3229-30

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 · 687-6378

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 STARDUST

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P90 (043) 312-5870

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 STARDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P9[illegible] (045) 892-2348

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 SIGNOS

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

STARMILLS

[illegible] (045) 875-1827

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 THE HOST

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DAYWATCH
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM

ILOILO

Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 DAYWATCH
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumes the identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

The message is pure

From page E1

others.

Martin Scorsese would have taken such potentially dry material and turned it into a visceral experience; James Cameron probably would have done it in underwater Imax 3-D.

Like DiCaprio, Conners and Petersen obviously have their heart in

the right
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But "The
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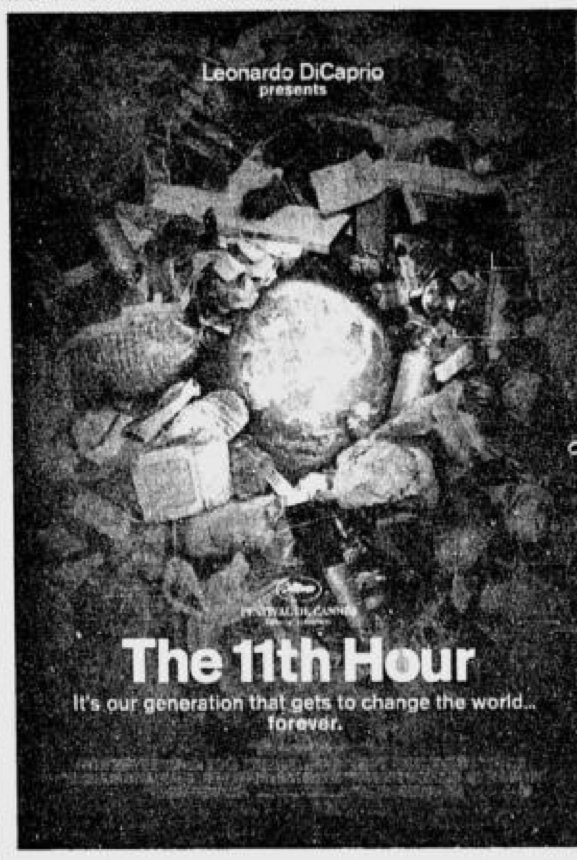
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Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 RETRIBUTION
3 STARDUST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 ONE PERCENT FULL/I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 11TH HOUR
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RETRIBUTION
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 STARDUST
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 ONE PERCENT FULL
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 STARDUST
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

ONE PERCENT FULL
NO RESERVATIONS
UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 DECEMBER BOYS
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 STARDUST
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 RETRIBUTION
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ONE PERCENT FULL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ONE PERCENT FULL
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 STARDUST
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 1408
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 WEDDING DAZE
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 STARDUST
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SKINWALKERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 DAYWATCH
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 STARDUST
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ONE PERCENT FULL
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 THE BRAVE ONE/ I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 ONE PERCENT FULL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 THE BRAVE ONE/ I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 OSS 117
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 STARDUST

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 BLIND DATING
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 DAYWATCH
6 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 THE BRAVE ONE/LAST LEGION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME/THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 **RESERVED**
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 **RESERVED**
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 SKINWALKERS
3 STARDUST
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 ONE PERCENT FULL
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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lace, and the right mes-
e right time. We're in a
situation, as "An Incon-
ıth" warned us last year.
1th Hour" strives to go
bal warming to include
greed, political account-
v and much more. They
lly do this through a
ering, Bunuel-esque montage of images—everything from floods and hurricanes to an infant in a womb and guys gesturing wildly on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. It's a brief history of ... everything!

Then as the film continues, they intersperse such footage among the litany of interviews.

DiCaprio does look appropriately somber and concerned, though, as he talks to us while standing on an endangered natural setting.

Because you're bound to be squirming in your seat wondering, "What can I do to help aside from recycling and shutting off my computer at night?" thankfully, they also provide some answers. *Christy Lemire, AP*

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RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:40	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	ONE PERCENT FULL 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:10 / 4:50 / 9:30	NO RESERVATION 2:30 / 7:10	STARDUST 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45

MALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

RETRIBUTION 12:20 R4 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50

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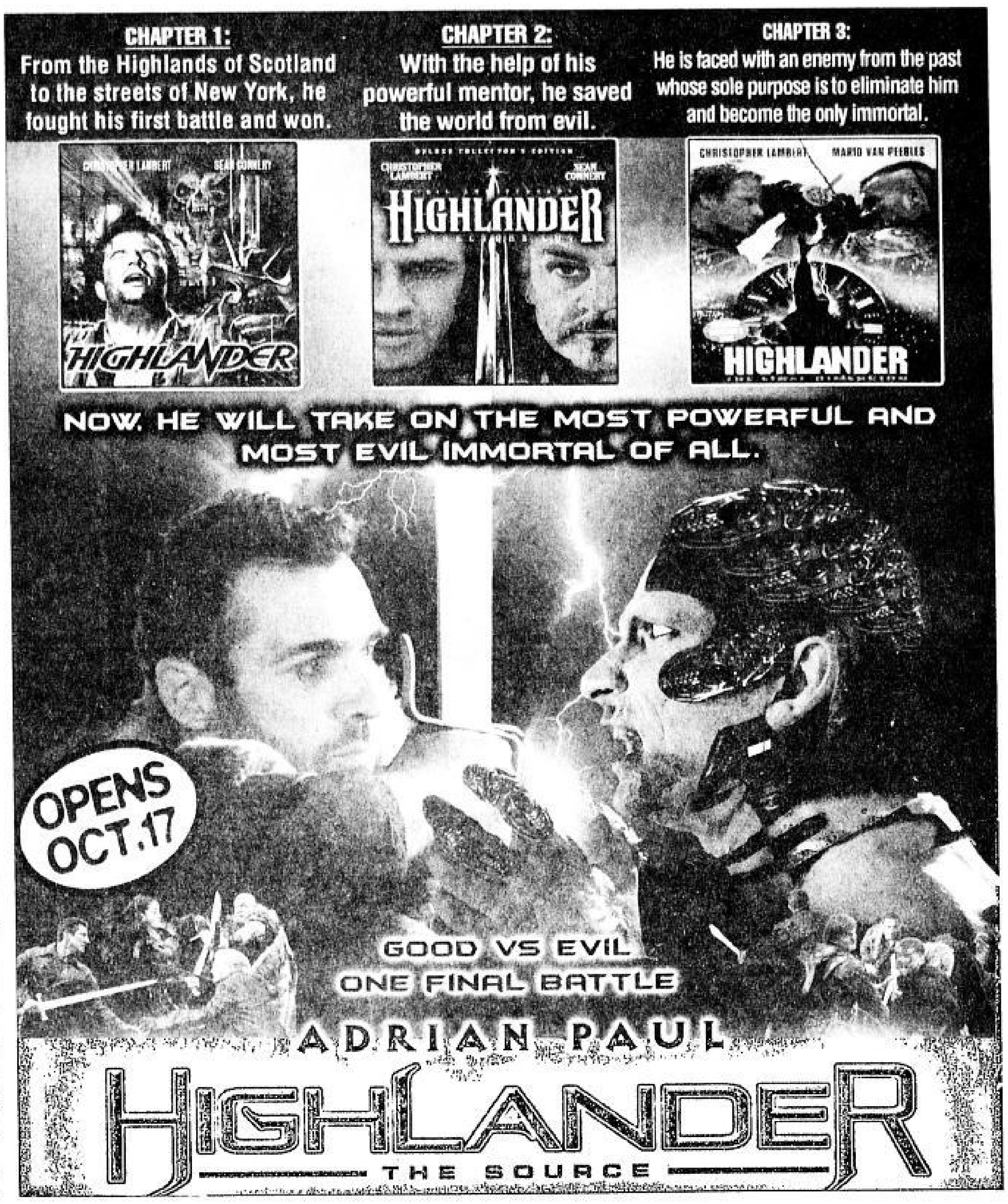
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GLORIETTA 1	1 KUNG FU FIGHTER	2 STARDUST	3 RETRIBUTION	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WEDDING DAZE	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 STARDUST		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STARDUST	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		
	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 RETRIBUTION	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 STARDUST	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION		
	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 STARDUST	5 KUNG FU FIGHTER	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 RETRIBUTION	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 RETRIBUTION	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

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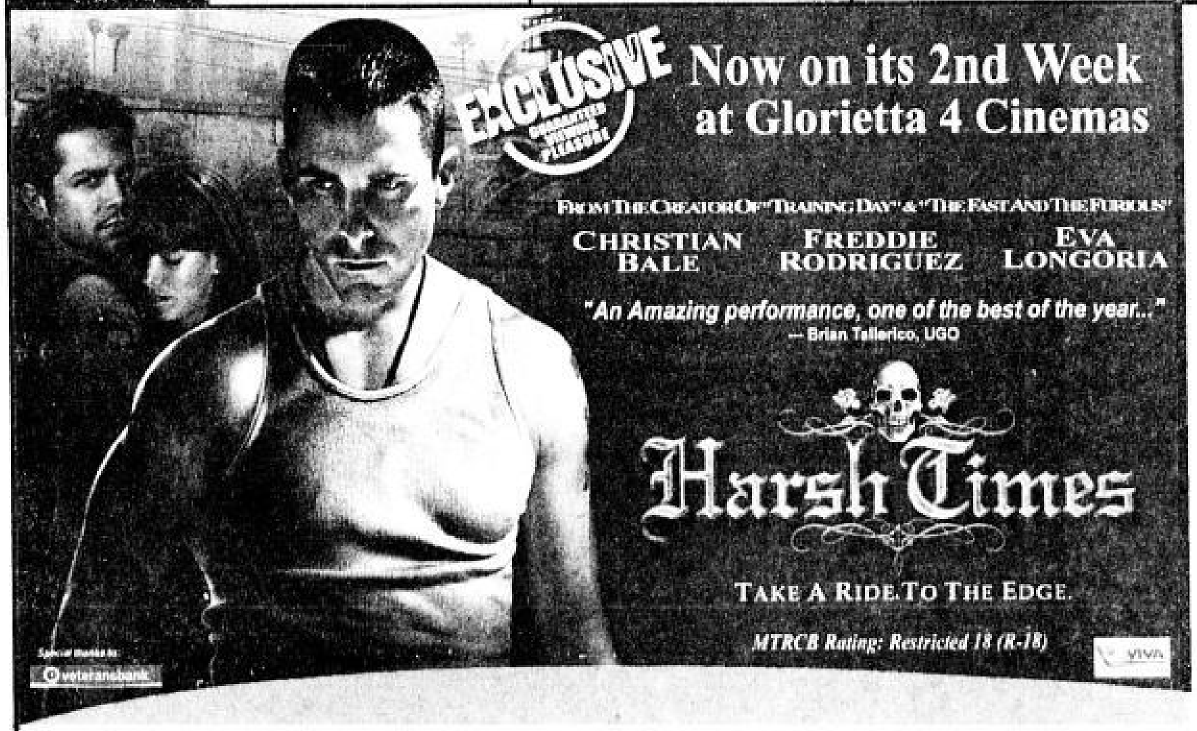
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Marc Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center


EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE

Now on its 2nd Week at Glorietta 4 Cinemas

FROM THE CREATOR OF "TRAINING DAY" & "THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS"

CHRISTIAN BALE · FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ · EVA LONGORIA

"An Amazing performance, one of the best of the year..."
— Brian Tallerico, UGO

Harsh Times

TAKE A RIDE TO THE EDGE.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

Special thanks to: veteransbank

America's Best Power Pop Band live at the Ayala Malls!

THE CLICK FIVE

TriNoma Activity Center
October 12, 2007
7PM
Concierge hotline: 901-3000

Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1
October 13, 2007
7PM
Concierge hotline: 757-4853

Alabang Town Center Activity Center
October 14, 2007
6PM
Concierge hotline: 842-2782 / 7721860

glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · TriNoma

CLAIRE DANES with MICHELLE PFEIFFER and ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX · SIENNA MILLER · RICKY GERVAIS · PETER O'TOOLE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE
STARDUST
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shang Cineplex
6th floor Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337861 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) STURDUST
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
DECEMBER BOYS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

starmall
EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ONE PERCENT FULL
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604295, 6433994

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

THEATRES
Telephone No. (044) 600 3005

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA
CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS) CHUCK & LARRY
2 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (DTS) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (GOLD DTS) NO RESERVATIONS
5 (GOLD DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
6 (GOLD SDDS) STURDUST
7 (GOLD DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
8 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 (DOLBY) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL

Blue Wave
MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 5341927

1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 HOST
3
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STURDUST
3 RETREBUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 SKINWALKERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DTS ES) SHOOT EM UP
4 WHITE NOISE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 (DOLBY) STURDUST
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 (DTS) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HOST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) RISE BLOOD HUNTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 I FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (DOLBY) LAST LEGION
4 (DTS) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 HOST
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ONE PERCENT FULL
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 KANDUNGAN
4 (DTS) DISTURBIA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
3 (DTS) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
4 HOST
5 CHUCK & LARRY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 ALIPIN NG ALIW
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STARDUST
MTRCB GP
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

② APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45
5:10, 7:35, 10:00

③ NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP
1:15, 3:45

④ KUNG FU FIGHTERS
MTRCB PG-13
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

PREMIERE THEATRE
WEDDING DAZE (R-13)
/ RESIDENT EVIL - 3 (R-13)

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)

2ND WEEK

We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.

MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

OPENS OCTOBER 17
From the Producers of
"THE WEDDING CRASHERS"

LETTING GO OF YOUR PAST IS HARD...
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S DATING YOUR MOM.

SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
BILLY BOB THORNTON
AND SUSAN SARANDON

MR. WOODCOCK

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 APAT DAPAT
11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
GP

CINEMA 2 RETRIBUTION
11:30 , 1:50 , 4:10
6:30 , 8:50
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 RESIDENT EVIL
// NO RESERVATIONS
10:50 , 12:45 , 3:10
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:05 , 2:40 , 5:15
7:50 , 10:25 PG-13

CINEMA 5 STARDUST
10:45 , 1:45 , 4:40
7:35 , 10:30
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

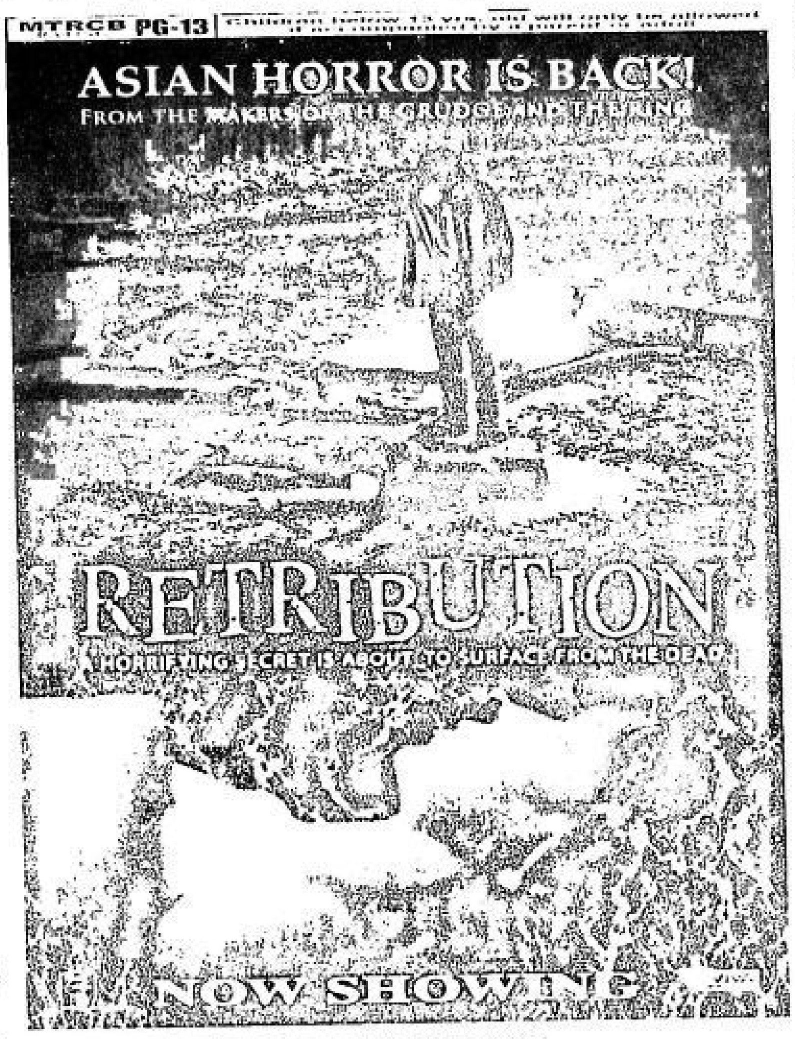
MUSIC MUSEUM

October 12 & 13, 2007	Apo Hiking Society	8:00 PM
October 18 & 19, 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116



MTRCB PG-13
ASIAN HORROR IS BACK!
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE GRUDGE AND THE RING
RETRIBUTION
HORRIFYING SECRET IS ABOUT TO SURFACE FROM THE DEAD
NOW SHOWING

Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.

Visit and
be enlightened by the
Ayala CINEMAS

EXHIBIT ON SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

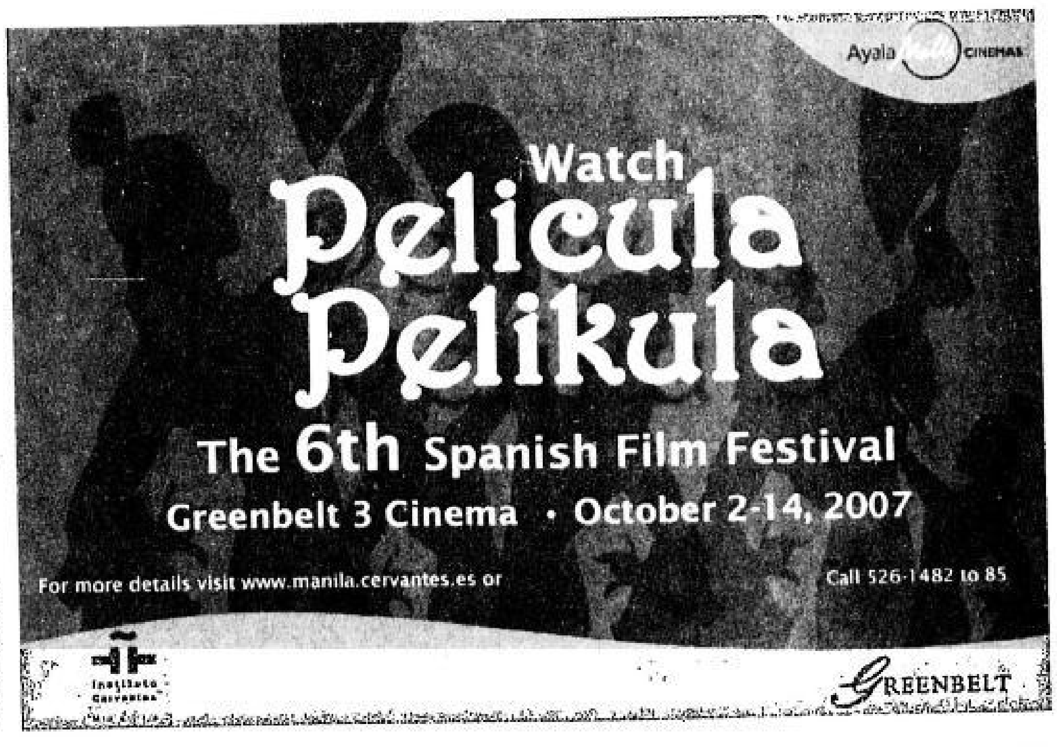
by Ayala Land, Inc. and WWF Philippines
at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby from October 4 - 16.

Leonardo DiCaprio
presents
The 11th Hour
NOW SHOWING AT
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA

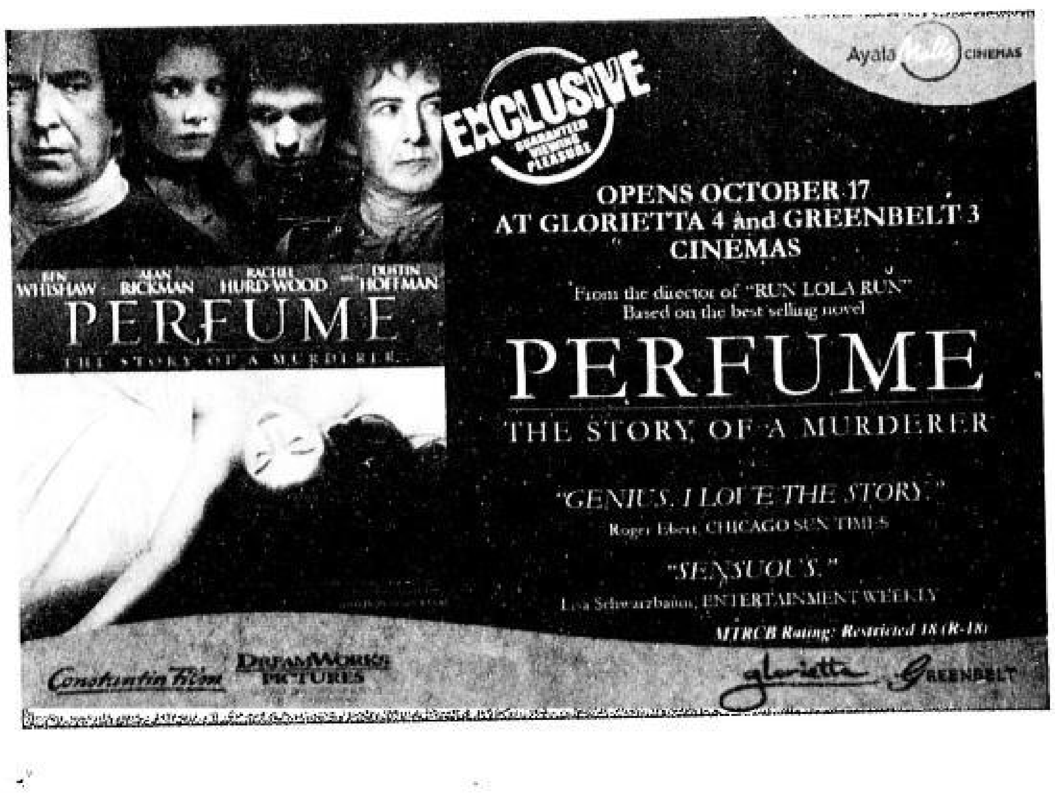
Watch out for "The 11th Hour"
at the following Ayala Malls Cinemas:
October 17 - 23 at TriNoma
October 24 - 30 at Alabang Town Center
October 31 - November 6 at Market! Market!

MTRCB Rating General Audience (G)

AyalaLand
beneficiAL
WWF
glorietta



Ayala Malls CINEMAS
Watch
Pelicula Pelikula
The 6th Spanish Film Festival
Greenbelt 3 Cinema · October 2-14, 2007
For more details visit www.manila.cervantes.es or
Call 526-1482 to 85
Instituto Cervantes
GREENBELT



Ayala Malls CINEMAS
BEN WHISHAW
ALAN RICKMAN
RACHEL HURD-WOOD
DUSTIN HOFFMAN
PERFUME
THE STORY OF A MURDERER
EXCLUSIVE
GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS OCTOBER 17
AT GLORIETTA 4 and GREENBELT 3
CINEMAS
From the director of "RUN LOLA RUN"
Based on the best selling novel
PERFUME
THE STORY OF A MURDERER
"GENIUS. I LOVE THE STORY."
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
Constantin Film
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
glorietta
GREENBELT

More…

From page E1

portray, like the judge character she was made to essay in a past starrer.

No, just keep it fresh and natural, let the story and her role directly impinge upon the experiences that many "ordinary" Filipinos have to contend with, and Nora will come through with uncommon force and acting instinct.

If we had our druthers, the project should be directed by the outstanding likes of Chito Roño, Laurice Guillen or Joyce Bernal.

We suspect that the third name we've cited could raise some eyebrows, since Bernal is better known for with-it filmic romps than dramatic movies.

But, that's our point: Nora's comeback bid needn't be along traditionally "awards-anointed" dramatic lines.

To showcase Nora's proven talent in a fresh way that will reveal excitingly new facets to her acting person and artistic range and depth.

Yes, Nora Aunor is already in her 50s, but if her talent is utilized in fresh, new ways, it could be that, for the country's first superstar—the best is yet to come.